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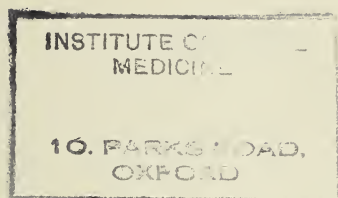
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL
MEDICINE
10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1950

F. G. FOSTER, M.A., M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

ALDERMAN J. MILLER

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. MELVILLE

Aldermen T. H. Herron, M. Poland, C. J. Yates.

Councillors R. S. Archer, Mrs. L. Baker, Mrs. A. Cochrane,
H. D. Ellidge, E. Neville Evans, J. Furness, Mrs. F. Gardner,
Mrs. F. M. Lindfield, Dr. R. W. L. Pearson, H. D. Shakeshaft,
Mrs. E. Ward.

Ex-Officio Members:

The Mayor (Alderman F. Garstang) and the Chairman of the
Finance Committee (Alderman H. Platt)

Co-opted Members:

J. Bennett, L. Dodd, Mrs. J. Furness,
Dr. G. Bowen, Mrs. A. Capper, Mrs. S. Hunter.

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ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Birkenhead.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I did not expect, when I issued my Valedictory Annual Report for 1949, that I would be called on to submit one for 1950.

That I do so is due to the fact that my successor, whom I expected to be in office in November, 1950, will not take control until April, 1951.

As it is, the submission of this Report will devolve on him, as the statistics of the Registrar-General will not be available until June, and, consequently, accurate figures will not be possible until the corrected Vital Statistics have been received.

The following general observations on the Health Services may be permitted.

The general health of the Town has been good and there have been no major epidemics, with the exception of the pandemic of Influenza, which struck the Borough at the end of December. Merseyside was especially afflicted, and it is estimated that 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the population of Birkenhead were affected by the disease.

The full extent and the severity of the outbreak will fall to be dealt with by my successor in his Report for 1951, but it was already evident at the end of December that the epidemic was not one of mere seasonal increase but one of major proportions.

Among other items of interest, it may be noted that 64 Palm Grove is in the process of being converted into a Day Nursery, and will be in use by the time this Report is published.

Palm Grove Day Nursery will take the place of Hollybank Road Nursery and much better accommodation will be available for the children attending.

The scope of the Medical Officer of Health has been further enlarged by the transfer to his control of the Welfare and Children's Departments. The work of these Departments will now be more closely correlated with the Public Health branch of the Service, and the close co-operation thus obtained should be of benefit to the Health and Social Welfare Services of the Borough.

The Sanitary Inspector's, Welfare and Children's Departments, which were formerly housed in Hamilton Street and Conway Street respectively, have now been transferred to 12 Hamilton Square.

SHORT STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area of Borough	8,598 acres or 13.4 square miles
Estimated population (mid-year 1950)	143,150
Number of persons per acre (density of population)	19.0
Estimated number of houses in the Borough	36,016
Estimated product of penny rate	£3,900
Birkenhead general rate	16/9 in the £
Birth-rate (live) per 1,000 of the population	18.5
Death-rate per 1,000 of the population	12.4
Average death rate for the last 10 years	14.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	42
Average number of children attending maintained schools	20,551
Number of children attending maintained schools medically inspected during the year	7,408

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER:

F. G. FOSTER, M.A., M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND DEPUTY SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER:

D. F. MORGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS:

Anna M. Williams, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Thelma R. Gaunt, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

William F. Christian, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Terminated appointment November 1950)

Evan F. W. Richards, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST:

(Part-time)

Mary C. Lydon, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.M.

VETERINARY OFFICER:

N. M. Clayton, M.R.C.V.S.

SENIOR SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER:

P. Wilson Smith, L.D.S., R.F.P.S. (Glas.)

ASSISTANT SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICERS:

John B. Andrew, L.D.S., B.D.S.

Eveline M. Warlow, L.D.S. (Part-time)

Kate S. Primrose, L.D.S. (Part-time)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND INSPECTOR UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS:

M. Holgate, A.R.San.I.

SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR:

Miss E. Ramage, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

CHIEF CLERK:

W. M. Cavers

POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

POPULATION

Population.—The population of the Borough, as recorded at the time of the 1931 census, was 147,803.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population of the Borough for mid-year 1950 to be 143,150.

BIRTHS

Births registered during 1950, and birth rate.—During the year 2,649 live births belonging to the Borough were *registered*.

The live birth rate for 1950 was 18.5.

Birth rate in recent years.—The birth rates since 1941 are as follows:—

1941	18.5	per 1,000
1942	19.6	„
1943	21.9	„
1944	23.3	„
1945	21.2	„
1946	23.5	„
1947	24.8	„
1948	21.4	„
1949	19.8	„
1950	18.5	„

Still Births.—In addition to live births, 58 still births belonging to Birkenhead were registered in accordance with Section 7 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926. This is equivalent to a still birth rate of 0.41.

Comparison of birth rates for country generally:—

	Per 1,000 of Population	
	Live births	Still births
England and Wales	15.8	0.37
126 County Boroughs and Great Town (including London) ...	17.6	0.45
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	16.7	0.38
London Administrative County	17.8	0.36
Birkenhead	18.5	0.41

Sex-distribution of births.—Of the 2,649 live births, 1,388 were males and 1,261 females; a proportion of 1,100 : 1,000.

Legitimacy.—Of the 2,649 live births registered 151 were illegitimate, a percentage of 5.7.

Registration of stillbirths.—The 58 stillbirths registered were classified as follows:—

Legitimate—Males	24
Females	26
Illegitimate—Males	3
Females	5
	<hr/>
	58
	<hr/>

The stillbirth rate was 21 per 1,000 total births.

Births notified during 1950.—During the year, 2,848 births were notified in the Borough under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Of these 64 were stillbirths, leaving a total of 2,784 live births. This total includes births which occurred in the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital and St. Catherine's Hospital, many of which were transferable to other areas.

The following is an analysis of the above births:

Births in Hospitals:—		
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital ...	630	(13 stillbirths)
St. Catherine's Hospital	866	(31 ,,)
Births in Nursing Homes	234	(2 ,,)
Other births:—		
Notified by doctors	-	(- ,,)
Notified by midwives	1,054	(18 ,,)
Notified by parents	—	(— ,,)
	<hr/>	
	2,784	(64 stillbirths)
	<hr/>	

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 62 cases of un-notified births; 10 by certified midwives and doctors, 1 by the Maternity Hospital staff, 49 by Annandale Nursing Home, 1 by Oakmore Nursing Home, and 1 by Prenton Nursing Home.

DEATHS

Death-rate.—1,779 deaths occurred during the year; the total figure includes 183 deaths of Birkenhead residents which occurred outside the Borough, but excludes 329 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the area. This gives a death-rate of 12.4 per 1,000.

Deaths in recent years.—The death rates since 1941 are as follows:

1941	18.9 per 1,000
1942	14.3 ,,
1943	14.8 ,,
1944	13.3 ,,
1945	13.7 ,,
1946	13.7 ,,
1947	14.3 ,,
1948	12.1 ,,
1949	12.3 ,,
1950	12.4 ,,

Sex-distribution of deaths.—Of the total deaths, 940 were male deaths—and 839 females, a proportion of 1,120 : 1,000.

Uncertified deaths.—In 1950 there were no uncertified deaths belonging to the area.

Coroners' Inquests.—Coroners' inquests were held regarding 68 deaths—that is, in 3.8 per cent. of the total deaths during the year.

The Coroners' (Amendment) Act, 1926.—Under the provisions of this Act, a Coroner may certify death after a post-mortem examination has been held, **without an inquest**. During the year 95 of the registered deaths (5.3 per cent. of the total deaths) were certified in this way.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 113 deaths of infants under 1 year old. This corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 births.

There were 8 deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year old: giving an illegitimate infant mortality rate of 53 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rates for each year since 1941 are given below:—

1941	102
1942	68
1943	74
1945	78
1946	67
1947	72
1948	53
1949	39
1950	42

The main causes of infant deaths during the past year are shown below:—

	No. in 1949	No. in 1950
(a) Pneumonia (all forms)	15	12
Bronchitis	1	1
Whooping Cough	2	1
Measles	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	9	12
(b) Premature Birth	35	13
(c) All other causes	45	73
	—	—
	108	113
	—	—

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 5.4 per cent. of all deaths recorded in the Borough, in 1950. The deaths from the disease were as follows:—

Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs	90
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis	6
	<hr/>
	96
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This gives a tuberculosis death-rate of 0.67 per 1,000 of the population, which was the lowest yet recorded in the Borough.

Of the 90 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during 1950, 84 occurred in persons between 15 and 65 years old—that is, of a wage-earning age.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.—The seven “principal epidemic diseases” caused 15 deaths, as follows:—

Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	12
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1
Fever (enteric, typhus and simple continued) ...	—
Smallpox	—

This corresponds to a death-rate from all these diseases of 0.10 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from other notifiable infectious diseases.—Pneumonia caused, in its various forms, 55 deaths; acute poliomyelitis 2; and meningococcal infections 3.

WATER SUPPLY, FOOD AND DRUGS,

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough has an ample supply of water of good quality. The main supply comes from Lake Alwen, but subsidiary supplies are obtained from wells at Flaybrick and Springhill.

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations are made at frequent intervals of the raw and the filtered waters, and at the Alwen works daily tests are made for Residual Chlorine, Alkalinity, Hardness, pH value and Free Acidity.

The waters are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, and it has not been necessary to take any precautions in respect of contamination by lead.

All dwelling-houses and the whole of the population in the Statutory Supply area are supplied from the public water mains and none are supplied by standpipe.

MILK SUPPLY

The supply and distribution of milk in Birkenhead has been conducted in a satisfactory manner from the public health point of view and there is little change to record from the conditions set out in my report for last year.

Practically the whole of the milk distributed is pasteurised or tuberculin tested, pasteurised with a small proportion of sterilized, raw tuberculin tested and accredited milks. Nearly all the milk is sold in bottles with metal caps covering the lips of the bottles.

One dairy at which milk was pasteurised at the beginning of the year did not comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Orders. The plant was old and worn out, and samples of milk taken from the dairy continually gave unsatisfactory results. Representations were made to the owner with the result that the dairy was closed in the early part of the year and the dairyman obtained his milk supply ready bottled from one of the modern dairies in the Borough.

In addition to the two large dairies operating in the Borough, a considerable quantity of pasteurised and tuberculin tested pasteurised milk is supplied by 4 large firms processing the milk in premises outside the Borough.

The numbers of registered dairymen in the Borough and the numbers of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 for the year ending 31st December, 1950, are set out below:—

Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	65
Number of registered dairymen	...	...	...	...	106
Dealers licences to sell " Pasteurised "	Milk	...	...	...	95
" " " " " Tuberculin tested "	Milk	...	...	...	89
" " " " " Accredited "	Milk	...	...	...	2
" " " " " Sterilized "	Milk	...	...	...	36
Licences to Pasteurise Milk	...	...	...	...	2

Of the 65 registered Dairies a considerable number are now no longer used as such owing to the increasing tendency to obtain only pre-bottled milk. It is intended to remove these addresses from the Register in accordance with Art: 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Examinations of milk, ice cream and other foods are carried out, without cost to the Local Authority, by the Public Health Laboratory service directed by the Medical Research Council and I am pleased to acknowledge my indebtedness for the help and advice so freely given by Dr. J. Morrison Ritchie, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who is in charge of the Birkenhead Laboratory.

290 samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year with the following results:—

	Passed	Failed
From the plant now disused ...	20	20
All other sources	247	3
	<hr/> 267	<hr/> 23
	<hr/> Total 290 <hr/>	

ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of premises of "whole time" manufacturers of ice cream were made throughout the year. Supervision of the smaller manufacturer-retailers, however, presents a more difficult problem as in these cases manufacturing is only done at irregular intervals depending very often on sudden short bursts of warm summer weather. The majority of visits to these small premises are therefore bound to take place when no manufacturing is in progress.

Manufacturers are nearly always willing to co-operate with the department and accept and indeed seek the advice of the officials concerned with this work.

One criticism of the law relating to ice cream is that, although premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold, etc., must be registered, any person, however unsuitable he may be, is allowed to buy ice cream in bulk and hawk it around the streets, and public places where crowds congregate, without being registered. Such persons have often no knowledge of the elementary principles of hygiene and are a potential danger to the health and well being of the public.

At the end of the year the numbers of premises registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream were:—

Premises for the manufacture of "hot mix" ice cream ...	40
Premises for the manufacture of "cold mix" ice cream	7
Premises for the manufacture of "ice lollies" only ...	8
	<hr/> 55
Premises registered for the sale only of ice cream ...	251
	<hr/> 306 <hr/>

Samples of ice cream submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination numbered 148 and the results were satisfactory. The samples were graded as follows (Grades 1 and 2 being the highest):—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	117
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	9
Lollies—satisfactory			...	...	...	9
Lollies—unsatisfactory			...	...	...	—
						<hr/>
Total samples	...	...	...	...	...	148

Ice cream is now regarded as a food of considerable nutritional value and it is pleasing to record that the ice cream sold in the Borough has consistently maintained a high standard. 52 samples were analysed during the year, the average composition being 10.18% fat, 15.8% sugar and 84.7% total solids.

These percentages are considerably higher than the statutory minimum contents of ice cream which the Minister of Food proposes to bring into force in 1951.

FOOD HYGIENE

Catering and Food Manufacturing Premises.

The year 1950 has shown an increased public consciousness of the importance of food hygiene and a demand for higher standards in the methods of handling and distributing food.

This demand has been reflected in the work of the sanitary department during the past year, and from March onwards systematic inspections of all catering and food manufacturing premises within the Borough have been carried out.

The Ministry of Food Model Byelaws have been adopted by the Council and came into operation on the 10th July. These have been found to be very useful in supplementing the provisions of the Food and Drugs and Shops Acts. Whilst no large-scale publicity campaigns have been conducted in Birkenhead a considerable amount of work has been accomplished by personal visits to those in charge of catering and food premises when the principles of food hygiene have been explained and amplified.

It is gratifying to report that these visits have for the most part been welcomed and that the majority of those in the food trade are anxious not merely to comply with the law, but also to raise the standard of their own particular businesses.

In the course of the inspections made it was found that four premises (2 cafes and 2 small food-preparing premises) were unsuitable and the owners decided to cease business rather than meet the cost of bringing the premises up to the requisite standard.

The Local Ministry of Food Executive Officer has been most co-operative and all new applications for catering licences are now referred by him to the sanitary department. Out of 25 applications

made during the year 9 were refused because of the premises being unsuitable. The 16 licences granted were for 11 cafes, 2 staff canteens and 3 licenced premises to serve refreshments.

Visits to licenced premises have mainly been confined to those holding catering licences, but it is hoped that it will be possible to include more visits to the non-catering public houses during 1951.

Cafes visited range from the small business managed solely by the owner, without the help of assistants, to the larger restaurants with up to 40 employees. It has been found that the small cafe under the personal supervision of the owner compares very favourably, from a hygienic standpoint, with the larger catering establishments. When large staffs are employed it is essential that constant supervision be exercised by persons well versed in modern hygienic practice. Works canteens in the district are all of a good standard and it has been found that those responsible for organising the canteens are receptive to suggestions for improvements.

Under the heading " Food Manufacturing Premises " in the summary appended, are included inspections of premises used for bottling of pickles and mineral waters, the manufacture of potato-crisps, fish cakes, cooked meats, sausages, meat pies, confectionery, sweets, jams and the canning of meats, fruits and vegetables. The necessity for thorough cleanliness in all the multiplicity of processes involved in the various trades has been stressed on each visit to these premises.

Inspections of school cooking kitchens have shown that a high standard of hygiene is maintained in dealing with school meals. All utensils and crockery being sterilized as a matter of routine.

The danger of food being contaminated by rats, mice or cock-roaches is constantly being investigated and all engaged in the food industry are encouraged to seek the help and advice of the sanitary department in all matters affecting food hygiene.

In the accompanying summary of inspections it will be noted that in only 26 cases was it found necessary to confirm verbal warnings by service of a notice. This fact is some indication of the spirit of goodwill and co-operation found to exist throughout the catering industry of the Borough.

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, NOTICES SERVED AND
DEFECTS REMEDIED FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1950.**

	Cafes and Licenced premises.	Canteens	Food Manf. Premises.	Total
Number on register	140	31	38	209
Number of inspections	1121	107	95	1323
Notices served	26	—	—	26
DEFECTS REMEDIED				
Structural repairs and premises cleansed	82	11	12	105
Ventilation	7	—	—	7
Water supply provided	2	—	—	2
Sanitary conveniences	10	—	1	11
Drainage	3	—	—	3
Equipment provided or cleansed	26	4	6	36
Refuse disposal	9	2	1	12

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Food Sampling.

420 samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. 42 were formal samples and 378 informal. 238 samples were of milk.

13 formal and 6 informal samples of milk were reported to be adulterated. These represented milk from 6 farms. In three cases the irregularities were probably due to uneven milking times, the morning's milk being of poor quality and the evening's milk being very rich in milk fat. In another two cases "appeal to cow" samples showed the cows were giving milk of poor quality and in the remaining case the following up formal samples were genuine. No legal proceedings were instituted. 6 samples of milk were reported to be genuine but of abnormal composition.

In addition 7 samples of other foods were reported as giving rise to irregularities. In all cases the manufacturers were informed and steps taken in 3 cases to withdraw the articles from sale and in the remaining cases to bring the articles concerned up to the required standard.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Legal Proceedings.

Legal proceedings were instituted against vendors for the following offences.

Offence	Results					
	Fine			Costs		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
For selling Beef dripping unfit for food—vendor	5	0	0	2	2	0
For selling Beef dripping unfit for food—servant	5	0	0			
For selling Cooked Meat unfit for food—vendor	5	0	0			
For selling Cooked Meat unfit for food—servant	5	0	0			
For possessing for sale meat unfit for food ...	5	0	0			
For selling meat pies unfit for food ...	5	0	0	1	1	0
For selling loaf containing surgical dressing ...	2	0	0	1	1	0
For selling meat pie containing mouse excreta ...	3	0	0	2	2	0
For using unregistered premises for sale and storage of ice cream ...	10	0				

Unsound Food.

Inspection of food in shops, warehouses, etc., was carried out during the year by the sanitary inspectors and the following list shows the amount of food found to be unfit for consumption. This food was collected by the inspectors and destroyed.

Canned and Bottled Goods:—

Meat	1,085
Fruit and Vegetables	4,914
Fish	887
Milk	5,177
Soup	470
Preserves	1,041
Puddings	44
Sauces	92
Miscellaneous	47 and 141 ozs.
Fat	56 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Wet Fish	6 stone
Cooked Meats, Sausages, etc ...	63 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Cereals	572 lbs.
Cake Mixture	246 pkts.
Biscuits	76 lbs & 26 tins
Cake and Pies	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. & 10
Coffee	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Eggs and Dried Egg	170 & 3 pkts.
Dried Fruit and Vegetables ...	3 tons 6 cwts 2 qrs.
Bacon and Ham	538 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Salad Cream	1 gall.
Toffee	16 lbs.
Powder Preparations (Various) ...	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. & 185 pkts
Desiccated Coconut	186 lbs.
Butter	42 lbs.
Chocolate and Chocolate Spread ...	60 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. & 355 pkts
Patent Foods	19 pkts.
Potatoes	1 ton
Flour	193 lbs.

Condiments	...	...	...	...	8½ lbs. & 20 pkts
Flavourings	...	...	...	...	214 pkts.
Cheese	...	..	...	...	32 lbs.
Kippers	...	...	...	...	129 lbs.
Pork Ribs	...	...	...	...	43 sets

Food Shops.

A start was made during the year on the listing and routine visiting of all shops where food is sold. Sec. 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Model Bye Laws apply to these premises. Owing to staff difficulties it was not possible to complete the primary inspection of all shops but the following summary shows what was accomplished.

Number of shops visited	...	...	...	...	...	378
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	742
The following contraventions of Sec. 13 were remedied:—						
Structural repairs	...	...	...	...	...	66
Protection of food from contamination	...	...	...	...	...	12
Painting and cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	15
Provision of suitable ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	5
Removal of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	2
Provision of wash basins	...	...	...	...	...	14
Provision of hot and cold water supply	...	...	...	...	...	70
Provision of soap and/or towels	...	...	...	...	...	25

Shops Act, 1950.

In addition to the work set out above 538 visits were made to 188 shops under the provision of Sec. 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, which deals with the health and comfort of shop workers.

Defects remedied were:—

Provision of suitable sanitary accommodation	...	...	3
Provision of suitable washing facilities	...	...	5
Provision of facilities for taking of meals	...	...	2
Provision of means of maintaining suitable temperature	...	...	2

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.

The department is responsible for the issue of licences to persons, other than registered pharmacists, who sell by retail those poisons set out in Part II of the Poisons List.

203 visits were paid by inspectors during the year.

The number of licences issued was:—

New licences issued during the year	...	...	...	61
Number of licences renewed during the year	...	...	...	177

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year, 147,478 animals were slaughtered in the Borough, an increase of 13,601 over the previous year.

			Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1950	...	...	109,383	6,243	31,347	605
1949	...	...	96,171	6,859	30,266	581

All animals slaughtered were subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection.

The following table shows the details of the animals slaughtered together with the condemnations:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	109,383	6,243	31,347	605
Number inspected... ..	109,383	6,243	31,347	605
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	270	76	75	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	35,680	41	3,108	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	31.4	1.8	10.1	4.6
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	901	25	—	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16,442	—	—	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.03	0.41	—	3.5

Note—(a) The carcasses of 95 animals which died in the Lairages or in transit were also inspected.

(b) The weight of meat and offal from all sources which was condemned as unfit for human consumption totalled 725 tons 18 cwts (610 tons 16 cwts for Tuberculosis, 115 tons 2 cwts for conditions other than Tuberculosis).

(c) 394 bovine carcasses were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis and placed in cold storage.

Public Health (Meat) Regulation, 1924.—The slaughtering of all food animals is carried out at the Public Abattoir (Tranmere) and Woodside Lairages; the meat is supplied not only to butchers within the Borough, but to those in neighbouring districts and London. All the animals are the property of the Ministry of Food. They are

slaughtered under the direction of a Slaughterhouse Manager at each centre, and are allocated by Area Meat Agents; the Manager and Agents being employed by the Minister of Food.

Inspections of butchers' shops and stores, vehicles and railway trucks for the conveyance of meat, is carried out as part of the routine work of the inspectorial staff.

Inspection of Foodstuffs in Shops, etc.—During the year, 1,244 inspections were made of butchers' shops and stalls, warehouses, fish shops, etc, where food is stored, prepared or exposed for sale.

Foodstuffs amounting to 409 tins of beef, ham, etc., 3952 lbs. of beef, 334 lbs. of fish, 42 lbs of meat roll, 376 lbs. rabbit, 50 lbs. of poultry were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—57 renewals of licences to slaughter animals were granted to butchers and others, employed in Birkenhead.

Diseases of Animals Acts.—Work under the above Acts has involved:—

(1) Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1939, the removal and slaughter of 5 dairy cows from herds in the Borough showing clinical signs of tuberculosis.

(2) Supervision of the disinfection of premises housing the above-mentioned tuberculous animals.

(3) The routine inspection of 22 dairy herds within the Borough.

(4) The examination of store pigs kept within the Borough to ensure that the animals are free from Swine Fever: 42 visits were paid and 280 pigs were examined.

(5) Visits to Taylor Street Cattle Sidings were made to supervise animals passing through to see cruelty is avoided, to prevent, if possible, sick animals from travelling further, and to take precautions against suspected Anthrax.

(6) Under the Fowl Pest Order, weekly visits are paid to Live Poultry Dealers in the Market and elsewhere within the Borough, to see that the regulations are being properly carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was a sharp increase in the number of cases of Measles during the year.

The number of notified cases was 1,753, the highest yet recorded in the Borough, and exceeded by 487 the former highest recorded figure of 1948.

As Measles and Whooping Cough tend to recur in epidemic form every second year, a rise, although not of such magnitude—was not unexpected.

In January, 1950, the Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infections) Regulations, 1949, came into force whereby Acute Poliomyelitis is now sub-divided into Paralytic and non-Paralytic types, and certain other modifications have been made in respect of Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infections.

15 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified of which 14 were confirmed. Twelve of these were of the Paralytic and two of the non-Paralytic type.

Notifications of Scarlet Fever rose from 165 in 1949 to 318 in 1950, but cases of Diphtheria dropped from 80 to 44.

A certain proportion of this latter number had been immunised in infancy and had the disease in a mild form, but the total is still too high.

By constantly stressing the value of immunisation to the General Public, it ought to be possible in the next year or two to reduce the number to single figures.

Cases of Dysentery rose from 30 to 59. Practically all these cases were due to Sonne's bacillus, which appears to be endemic in many areas. The disease, which is rarely of a severe type, responds well to treatment by antibiotics and certain of the sulpha drugs, and caused no mortality.

The following tables show the number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1950, and the final numbers according to Sex and Age after corrections subsequently made either by the notifying Medical Practitioners or by the Medical Staff at the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Whooping Cough	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified...	171	167	58	66	4	8	2	1	924	835	252	288
Final numbers after correction												
Age under 1 year ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	33	47	33	20
Age 1 — 2 years + ...	10	15	4	2	1	2	1	—	238	221	70	82
Age 3 — 4 years + ...	49	33	3	2	2	3	—	—	280	238	77	82
Age 5 — 9 years + ...	69	81	5	2	1	1	—	—	336	276	68	97
Age 10 —14 years + ...	21	22	2	7	—	—	1	—	25	31	1	2
Age 15 —24 years + ...	8	3	4	5	—	—	—	—	4	10	—	—
Age 25 and over ...	2	2	1	6	—	2	—	—	5	9	2	2
Totals ...	162	156	20	24	4	8	2	—	921	832	251	285

	Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia		Dysentery		Malaria		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Menin- gococcal Infection		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified	102	100	24	39	2	—	2	—	9	18	9	10	—	16	1	—
Final Numbers after correction Age 0 — 4 years + ...	29	27	9	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Age 5 — 14 years + ...	20	11	9	9	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age 15 — 44 years + ...	13	17	2	14	1	—	—	—	2	11	—	—	—	15	—	—
Age 45 — 64 years + ...	24	22	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age 65 and over ...	12	21	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	98	98	22	37	2	—	—	—	9	18	2	1	—	15	1	—

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The general housing situation remains unchanged and it is obvious that the large number of unsatisfactory houses will have to remain in occupation for many years to come. Most of the old houses are incapable of being made in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and in many cases, having regard to the value of the houses, the cost of substantial repairs or reconditioning would be prohibitive.

A certain amount of overcrowding is also inevitable due to increases in families, and sons and daughters getting married and being unable to find separate accommodation.

There are instances, however, where the occupier of a house sub-lets every room in the house and deliberately causes overcrowding, the only apparent reason being financial gain and I would suggest that strong action should be taken in such cases.

Inspection and Repair of Dwelling Houses. Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year 4,223 complaints were made at the Chief Sanitary Inspector's office, this figure being very slightly lower than that for the previous year. In addition many complaints were made directly to the district inspectors on their districts.

The total number of inspections made for housing or other defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts was 11,319 and there were 21,415 re-inspections. These inspections resulted in the service of 4,394 informal notices, 1,622 abatement notices were served in cases where the informal notices had not been complied with in a reasonable time. The total number of defects remedied during the year as a result of the service of notices was 11,770.

The following is a summary of improvements effected at dwelling houses:—

Roofs repaired	1453
Chimney stacks repaired	134
Rainwater gutters repaired	666
Downspouts repaired	258
Downspouts disconnected from drains	11
Walls pointed or repaired	481
Lighting improved	1
Ventilation improved	29
Windows repaired	474
Sash cords renewed	555
Firegrates repaired	453
Hearthstones repaired	48
Floors relaid or repaired	742
Skirting boards repaired	139
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	2302
Walls cleansed	12
Doors repaired	402
Sinks renewed	89
Sink waste pipes trapped or repaired	272
Washing boilers repaired	24
Dampness remedied	334

Nuisance from animals abated	2
Yard surfaces repaired	203
Yards drained	3
Sufficient water supply provided	99
Drains constructed, altered, repaired	632
Water closets repaired	1104
Miscellaneous repairs	848

Generally speaking property owners complied with the requirements of notices within a reasonable time. The average number of notices outstanding at any time during the year was 980.

In 33 cases, however, it was necessary to institute legal proceedings under Sec. 94 Public Health Act, 1936, in the Magistrates Court to enforce compliance with notices. Where the work had not been completed at the time of the hearing the Magistrates made Nuisance Orders in all cases. In only two instances were penalties (£2 0s. 0d. and £1 0s. 0d. respectively) inflicted. Advocates fees were allowed in 22 cases and costs of the summons in 29 cases. Three cases were withdrawn as the work was completed the same day as the summons was issued. Further proceedings were instituted in two cases for non-compliance with the Nuisance Order within the time specified by the Magistrates and in both instances fines of £5 0s. 0d. were inflicted.

Housing Act, 1936, Secs. 11 and 12: Dwelling Houses Unfit for Human Habitation.

2 basement dwellings, 2 houses and 1 caravan were represented to the Health Committee as being unfit for human habitation and not capable, at a reasonable expense, of being rendered so fit under the provisions of Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Closing or demolition orders were made in 4 cases and the fifth case was under consideration at the end of the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

Five common lodging houses were kept on the register during the year. These houses provide accommodation for male lodgers only. Practically all the lodgers are "regulars," many having been in residence for several years. There is apparently little demand for accommodation for "casuals."

A sixth common lodging house was found to be in a bad state of repair and was not kept in a clean or sanitary condition. In anticipation of formal action by the Committee the owner decided to close this house voluntarily.

Smoke Abatement.

The vacancy on the establishment for a smoke inspector was not filled during the year. 64 smoke observations were made and in 39 cases it was necessary for the inspector to visit the works concerned and interview the engineers or firemen. Improvements were effected and maintained in several cases. At two premises however considerable annoyance is caused to persons living and working in the vicinities. In spite of assurances by the responsible persons and in

spite of endeavours made, smoke is still emitted in sufficient quantities to cause a nuisance. In both cases the trouble is mainly due to old and badly designed chimney stacks. Further efforts are being made to have the nuisance abated.

Extermination of Rats, Mice and other Pests.

As in the previous year two rodent operators were employed, one dealing with sewer infestation and the other with surface properties.

A portion of the sewer system in the Borough comprising 1,000 manholes was test baited and found to be free from rats. The remainder of the system was treated twice during the year.

No. of manholes baited or rebaited	9123
No. of " takes " recorded partial	1370
No. of " takes " recorded complete	1348
No. of manholes " test baited "	1000 (approx.)

367 infestations of rats and mice were found or reported during the year. These were all treated or the treatment supervised by the Corporation's rodent operator. In addition 66 visits in connection with infestations were made by sanitary inspectors.

Other disinfestation work carried out by the department consisted of the spraying, etc., of 125 rooms in 47 premises, with insecticides. Except in special cases a charge of 2s. 6d. per room is made for this service.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, I set out below a Table showing the inspections made, and the defects found, under Part I of the Act.

Under Part VIII of the Act, 15 outworkers engaged in the making of Wearing Apparel were included in the August list required by Section 110 (I) (c); there were no prosecutions under Section 110 or 111.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities* ...	1	99	64	27	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ...	2	493	550	30	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	16	10	3	—	3
TOTAL ...		608	624	60	—	

2.—**CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.**

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	6	4	—	3	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1	—	1	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	7	5	—	5	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	10	29	31	—	18	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	8	2	—	1	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	53	44	—	28	—	60

i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 & 108).

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year was 276. Of these, 249 cases were of Pulmonary and 27 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. (See Table T1, page 22).

This number shows a decrease of 46 from that of 1949, i.e., a decrease of 14%.

Mortality

The total number of deaths certified as due to Tuberculosis was as follows:—

Respiratory	...	...	...	90
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	6

Number of Known Cases

After making deductions for those patients who died during the year, who permanently left the district, or whose names have been taken off the register as provisionally cured, the total number of known cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough at the end of 1950 was as follows:

			Adults	Children (under 15 yrs.)	Total
Respiratory—	Male ...	...	664	58	722
	Female ...	...	517	49	566
Non-Respiratory—	Male ...	...	43	140	183
	Female ...	...	87	112	199
Total—	Male ...	...	707	198	905
	Female ...	...	604	161	765
TOTAL ...			1311	359	1670

Examination of Contacts

849 persons who had been in close contact with known cases of Tuberculosis were examined at the Clinic and were classified as follows:—

	Adults		Children	Total
	Male	Female		
Classed as suffering from				
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	27	20	2	49
Classed as suffering from other				
forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1
Classed as non-Tuberculosis	137	205	414	756
Classed as “suspect”	5	11	27	43
				849

Of the 849 contacts examined by the Tuberculosis Officer during the year, 50, of these or 5.88% were found to be Tuberculous, and 43, or 5% were classed as “suspects.”

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was in Birkenhead for approximately four months during the year. 621 adults who were ‘contact’ cases were given forms for chest X-ray by the Unit and of these 214 attended.

**SCHEMES MADE BY THE COUNCIL
UNDER PART III OF THE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946**

- (1) Care of Mothers and Young Children
- (2) Midwives Service
- (3) Health Visiting
- (4) Home Nursing
- (5) Vaccination and Immunisation
- (6) Ambulance Service
- (7) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care
- (8) Mental Health Services
- (9) Domestic Help Service

CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN**Staff**

The following table shows the disposition of the Medical Staff engaged on duties under the Scheme:—

Clinic	Ante-Natal	Infant Welfare	Toddlers
Hamilton Square	Dr. A. M. Williams	Dr. E. F. W. Richards	—
North	Dr. T. R. Gaunt	Dr. T. R. Gaunt	Dr. T. R. Gaunt
South	Dr. A. M. Williams	Dr. A. M. Williams	Dr. A. M. Williams
Balls Road	—	Dr. W. F. Christian	—
Upton	—	Dr. W. F. Christian	—

Ante-Natal Clinics

There has again been a reduction in the number of patients attending the Ante-Natal Clinics and this is attributable to several reasons, the main ones being that more mothers are availing themselves of the services of a private practitioner and an increasing number prefer to have their confinements in Hospital, with a consequent larger attendance at the Hospital Ante-Natal Clinics.

Every mother attending an Ante-Natal Clinic has her blood tested for Blood Group, Rhesus Factor and Wasserman Reaction. The results of these tests are communicated to Hospital, private doctor or midwife as the case may be.

During the past year a number of private practitioners have been sending their patients to the Clinics for blood tests for the Rhesus Factor to be carried out.

Ante-Natal Clinics were held once weekly at Hamilton Square, the North Clinic and the South Clinic. Clinics were held on 154 occasions the number of patients dealt with being 713 and the total number of attendances made being 2,625. Of this total, 131 patients attended the Clinic during the previous year.

Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics.—Below are set out the details of attendances at Clinics:—

Clinic	No. of Sessions	No. of Cases	No. of Attendances
Hamilton Square	52	289	1070
North	51	234	782
South	51	190	773

With regard to complications of pregnancy diagnosed at Clinics the patients are referred to the Ante-Natal Clinic at St. Catherine's Hospital, where there is an obstetrician in attendance.

Infant Welfare Clinics

The attendance of the mother with baby for the first year continues to be good but after that time there is a steady decline. The health of babies under 12 months of age is good but this is not maintained in many of the older children.

At the end of the year the child welfare clinics were being held as follows:—

Hamilton Square Clinic; Monday and Wednesday afternoons,
2 to 5 p.m.

South Clinic; Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons,
2 to 5 p.m.

North Clinic; Wednesday and Thursday afternoons,
2 to 5 p.m.

Balls Road Clinic; Thursday and Friday afternoons,
2 to 5 p.m.

Upton Clinic; Tuesday afternoons,
2 to 5 p.m.

The following tables give an indication of the work done at the clinics during the year:—

Toddlers Clinics

(Children 1—5 years)

These clinics were held once weekly at the North and South Clinics. Below are particulars of the work carried out:—

North Clinic (47 sessions)		South Clinic (48 sessions)		Totals	
1st Visits	Re-visits	1st Visits	Re-visits	1st Visits	Re-visits
61	876	50	954	111	1830

Welfare Foods

Supplies of Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil Emulsion and Tonics of proprietary brands prescribed by the Assistant Medical Officers in charge of the Clinics are available at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

Supplies of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil are also issued.

It is found that the majority of artificially fed babies are given National Dried Milk, produced under the scheme of the Ministry of Food, which is cheaper than the proprietary brands stocked at the Clinics.

Day Nurseries

The Cavendish Road, Old Chester Road and Hollybank Road Day Nurseries have been well-attended during the year.

Priority of admission is given to necessitous cases. The mother must be in full-time employment.

There was a sharp outbreak of Measles in the Old Chester Road and Cavendish Road Day Nurseries during the first half of the year. These outbreaks were dealt with by excluding all the susceptible children, and so preventing the spread of infection.

Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out, subject to the parents' consent.

Student Nursery Nurses continue to be trained for the National Nursery Examination Board Certificate in two of the Nurseries. There is now an exchange between the students in the Nurses Classes (Education Department) and the students in the Day Nurseries (Public Health Department), term and term about, all students being attached to a Day Nursery during the holidays. This ensures a wider experience for the students in the care and education of the young child under 5 years of age. The Education Department is responsible for organising the lectures for these students.

Parents' Meetings have been very successful this year and have been held in each of the Nurseries. On some of these occasions films have been shown by the Central Office of Information and have proved to be of great value educationally.

A scheme has been approved for transferring the Hollybank Road Day Nursery to premises in Palm Grove, where much improved accommodation will be provided.

The following table shows the attendances made during the year at each of the nurseries:—

Name of Nursery	Capacity		No. of children on register during year		No. of attendances during year		Average attendances during year	
	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.
Cavendish Road ...	15	30	44	83	3838	7752	15	29
Old Chester Road ...	15	30	47	71	3596	8479	13	31
Hollybank Road ...	16	22	39	48	3749	5611	15	23

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children

Arrangements were made for 7 unmarried mothers to be admitted to Mother and Baby Homes during the year; the average duration of stay being 10 weeks.

Care of Premature Infants

Premature infants born at home who cannot be given the required care and attention are sent to Hospital, retained until they are 5-lbs in weight and are not discharged until such time as they are fit to receive the required attention at home.

A cot, especially designed for premature infants, is available at the Health Office and is loaned for the use of premature infants who are being nursed at home.

Close contact is maintained by Health Visitors with such infants for the first six months of life, and longer if found necessary.

During the year, 137 premature babies were born. Of these, 94 were born in Hospitals or Nursing Homes, and 43 were born at home.

Dental Care

Owing to the continued shortage of Dental Surgeons, it has not been found possible to establish a priority Dental Service for expectant and nursing mothers attending the Clinics.

The arrangements made in 1948 with local Dental Surgeons still exist and their help and co-operation in treating the cases referred to them from Clinics is much appreciated.

Maternal Mortality

The Registrar-General's Statement of causes of death does not include any deaths connected with pregnancy and child birth.

Artificial Sunlight Treatment

Artificial sunlight treatment was given at the North and South Health Clinics during the year. Dr. Williams and Dr. Gaunt were in charge of this work.

Convalescent Treatment

An arrangement is in operation with the Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association whereby the Association provides convalescent treatment for children between the ages of 0—5, recommended for such treatment by members of the Medical Staff of the Department.

The Local Authority pays to the Association the actual cost of the treatment plus the administration expenses of the Association in connection therewith.

Number of cases recommended for treatment during the year was 31.

AGENCIES ASSISTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

(a) **St. Elizabeth's Convent**—At the maternity and child welfare clinics held in connection with this Institution, the following attendances were made during the year:—

Infant Welfare Clinic: children under 1 year		
	1st visits	revisits
	102	867
children 1—5 years		
	1st visits	revisits
	34	413

A grant of £50 per annum is paid by the Corporation to the Convent

(b) Birkenhead and District Mothers' Welfare Clinic

The objects of this voluntary society are set out in my¹ Report for 1949.

Of the 762 new patients who were given advice at the Clinics during the year, 302 were residents of the Borough.

The Society receives a grant of £50, per annum from the Corporation.

MIDWIVES SERVICE

Duties under this Scheme are concerned with the administration of the Midwives Acts, 1902-1936; the visiting of the homes of midwives to inspect their equipment, etc., advising them on the details of their work and on their duties, as set out in the above Acts, and in the Rules issued by the Central Midwives Board.

Number of Midwives

During the year 30 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the Borough, as follows:—

Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	13
Maternity Hospital Midwife	...	...	...	1
Private Midwives	...	...	...	16
Midwives in Hospitals and Institutions	...	...	...	42
Midwives in Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	8
				—
				80
				—

Supervision

Dr. A. M. Williams, Assistant Medical Officer, acts as Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

The Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, Miss M. Pringle, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., carried out the following work:—

Inspection of midwives: Visits to midwives homes	...	62
Interviews at Office	...	456
Nursing visits	...	12

Visits in connection with:—

Cases requiring medical aid	.....	63
Cases of puerperal pyrexia	.....	5
Cases of ophthalmia neonatorum	.....	—
Cases of stillbirth	.....	16
Expectant mothers	.....	226
Other visits	.....	213
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	.....	137

Number of cases attended by midwives—1072

The number of cases attended by midwives alone (no doctor being in attendance) numbered 596.

Cases requiring medical aid

100 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called, as against 169 last year.

Notifications received from midwives

Stillbirths	...	...	...	17
Substitution of artificial feeding	...	...	...	156*
Deaths	...	...	...	1

* including hospital notifications

Municipal Midwives

The following is a summary of the work of the Municipal Midwives during the year:—

No. of bookings		750
No. of births attended (a) as Maternity Nurse ...	251	} 716
(b) as Midwife	465	
No. of visits to patients		16753

Arrangements are in operation whereby Municipal Midwives attend Ante-natal clinics with the object of obtaining contact, supervision and greater knowledge of the mother for the time of confinement.

Independent Midwives

Independent midwives attended 80 cases as midwives and 109 cases as maternity nurses.

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital

The agreement between the Local Authority and the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board continues to operate. Under this agreement a payment is made to the Board in respect of the services of the District Midwifery Sister on the staff of the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital for domiciliary midwifery services in the Borough.

The Hospital Midwifery Service carried out the following work during the year: —

No. of bookings	159
No. of domiciliary births	159
No. of visits to homes of patients	2842

Gas and Air Analgesia

Gas and air analgesia was administered by the Municipal Midwives to 57 patients, and by the Maternity Hospital District Midwifery Sister to 98 patients.

Before gas and air analgesia is administered, the patient must be examined by a doctor and pronounced fit.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

1 case was notified during the year, which was treated at home. Vision was unimpaired.

Ambulance Service

Arrangements are in operation whereby the Borough Ambulance Service provides transport of midwives to cases during the hours normal transport facilities are not available, and also conveys gas and air analgesia apparatus to the homes of patients where it is required for use.

HEALTH VISITING

The Health Visiting services for the Borough are carried out by 16 Health Visitors and their duties are controlled by the Superintendent Health Visitor.

They are engaged on Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Services, and in this way co-ordination between these three services is effectively maintained.

Visits were paid to many homes in the Borough at the request of Hospital Almoners, the Children's Officer and the Welfare Officer. Reports on the homes visited were prepared and action taken to help cases when this was found necessary.

Home Visitation

The following is a summary of work done by Health Visitors:—

- 2799 First visits were paid to infants under one year old.
- 6559 Subsequent visits were paid to infants under one year old.
- 17723 Routine visits were paid to infants over one year and under five years old.
- 133* First visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 24 Re-visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 60 Visits were made in connection with the deaths of infants.
- 611 Visits were made in connection with infectious diseases.
- 217 Visits were made in connection with miscellaneous matters.
- 34 Visits were made in connection with hospital after-care.
- 4652 Visits were made in which no access could be obtained.

* Does not include visits paid by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

Clinic Duties

Health Visitors attended 1447 Clinic Sessions during the year (1359 Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Sunlight; 88 Superannuation sessions).

Tuberculous Cases—Visitation of

The homes of tuberculous persons are visited by members of the Health Visiting Staff, with the object of giving advice to the patient and the family.

Health Visitors made 272 first visits and 2804 re-visits.

Nurses Services provided at request of:

Doctors	...	...	...	...	...	1675
Patients' Relatives and friends	...	...	...	...	...	47
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	14
St. Catherine's Hospital	..	...	...	...	...	6
General Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	35
Children's Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternity Hospital	..	...	...	...	...	2
Other Hospitals	...	..	...	...	...	10
Other Sources	...	...	...	...	...	5
						<hr/> 1795 <hr/>

Classification of cases nursed and visits paid:

						Cases.	Visits.
(1) Medical	...	...	...	...	...	1289	35163
(2) Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	244	7989
(3) Infectious	...	...	...	...	...	6	57
(4) Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	37	1618
(5) Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
(6) Post-natal	...	...	...	...	...	29	269
(7) Senility	...	...	...	...	...	174	4580
(8) Other Cases	...	...	...	...	...	15	221
						<hr/> 1795	<hr/> 49898 <hr/>

Cases remaining on Register at 31st December, 1950

252

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Children under 5 years of age:

The Local Authority provides facilities for immunisation at five Child Welfare Clinics.

1647 children in this age group were during the year immunised by Medical Officers in Clinics and by General Practitioners.

Owing to a slight increase in the notification of Poliomyelitis during the months August—October, it was decided to suspend during that period the use of the combined A.P.T. and Whooping Cough prophylactics.

Health Visitors are expressly charged with the responsibility of making every effort to secure immunisation of children under school age in their respective districts of duty.

Parents are informed that their own General Practitioner will carry out immunisation if they so wish.

The public is kept constantly informed, by appropriate publicity, of all the facilities available for free immunisation.

Approximately 2,000 Greetings Cards were despatched to children on their 1st birthdays, containing a message to the baby's parents stressing the desirability of having the child protected against diphtheria at the earliest opportunity, if this has not been done.

Children of School age:

The intensive campaign commenced in 1949 was continued throughout the year.

20 Primary Schools were visited by Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors, necessitating the arrangement of 60 sessions for immunisation purposes.

2,029 school children, who had previously been immunised in infancy, were given a single re-inforcing injection by Medical Officers at Clinics and Schools and by General Practitioners.

During the year, 11,704 injections were given to children, the highest number of injections given in the Borough during any one year since the immunisation scheme commenced in 1933.

The response of the parents in permitting their school children to be immunised has been most encouraging, and with similar efforts during the coming years it is anticipated that the number of cases of diphtheria in the Borough will be reduced.

Public notices and posters have been issued from time to time in order to keep the public informed of the need for immunisation of their children in infancy, and the necessity of children receiving re-inforcing injections at intervals throughout their school life.

The number of children whose immunisation against diphtheria was completed during the year was 3,676, made up as follows:—

0—4 years of age	1,647
5—14 years of age	2,018
15 years and over	11
Total ...	3,676

During the year the following number in immunisations and re-inforcing injections were carried out:

	At Clinics and Schools	By General Practitioners
Immunisation against Diphtheria	2731	421
Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	385	139
Reinforcing injections against Diphtheria	4220	132

Smallpox Vaccination

Facilities are available for vaccination at each of the Child Welfare Clinics and steps are taken to ensure that the advisability of infant vaccination is brought to the notice of all parents of newly-born children.

Parents are also informed that their own General Practitioner will carry out the vaccination if they so wish.

Vaccination lymph is available to Medical Officers and General Practitioners, free of charge, through the City Bacteriological Department, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

The increase in the number of re-vaccinations notified during the year was due mainly to the Ministry of Health stressing the desirability that all members of hospital staffs within the Borough should be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity.

Publicity arrangements are similar to those for immunisation against diphtheria and a vaccination leaflet is enclosed in each Greetings Card sent to infants on their 1st birthdays.

During the year the following vaccinations have been carried out:

By Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics	600
By General Practitioners	884

1484

The following table shows the age groups of the persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated).

Born in years	Age Under 1 1950	Age 1 to 4 1946-1949	Age 5 to 14 1936-1945	Age 15 or over Before 1936	
Number vaccinated...	458	458	41	54	1011
Number re-vaccinated	—	6	22	445	473

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Requests for immunisation against Whooping Cough were received from mothers during the year, and to meet their demands 29 children were given a course of injections, at the Child Welfare Clinics.

The following tabulated statement shows the number of children immunised each year since 1933:—

Age in years on 31st. December of the corresponding year.	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Total immunised on 31st. December 1950
Under 1 year	—	—	3	1	1	13	3	3	1	—	18	9	—	5	30	71	60	27	
1 year	2	1	62	16	19	31	12	15	106	419	551	548	714	588	712	1009	1124	1020	
2 years	2	8	29	15	21	73	45	31	201	501	465	347	355	355	241	353	385	316	Aged under 5 years
3 years	7	7	42	12	30	78	32	25	211	414	392	65	139	125	93	113	144	148	5,540
4 years	2	13	62	19	28	77	28	19	184	379	382	57	47	75	71	71	84	136	
5 years	4	12	201	24	43	125	45	23	243	350	246	60	37	51	55	56	80	212	
6 years	6	11	479	29	48	174	31	19	450	264	285	48	27	43	33	31	58	314	
7 years	2	9	580	18	32	190	45	27	478	219	320	43	17	26	20	28	41	281	
8 years	8	9	591	13	19	200	32	27	511	163	248	23	10	20	26	26	21	331	
9 years	1	12	668	10	23	120	23	18	511	129	286	21	12	20	17	11	33	273	Aged 5-14 years 13,409
10 years	—	11	713	7	5	125	20	17	515	121	240	16	6	27	14	20	22	267	
11 years	—	1	666	7	10	96	11	10	655	112	292	16	11	17	8	13	33	221	
12 years	—	6	557	4	9	111	11	10	385	113	298	7	1	10	5	14	7	62	
13 years	—	3	532	4	6	62	9	7	336	103	198	15	1	5	7	6	7	13	
14 years	—	1	306	11	4	44	3	5	250	36	208	19	8	4	7	6	6	14	
15 years and over	9	6	90	14	9	69	25	23	132	27	33	24	22	8	15	14	14	11	
																			Aged 15 years and over 15,616
Total each year.	43	110	5581	204	310	1588	373	279	5170	3350	4462	1318	1407	1379	1354	1842	2119	3676	Grand Total 1933-1950 34,565

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr. A. R. G. Wray, Chief Fire Officer, submits the following report:—

During the year under review your Brigade responded to 33,267 calls, an increase of 8,171 upon the preceding year. Mileage increased by 21,299 miles.

It is of interest to note that although the number of out-patients carried increased by 1,520, the mileage was reduced by 11,589 miles. This can be attributed to a new system of co-ordinated journeys introduced during the year, whereby one or two vehicles, according to the demand, remain at and work from the hospital during clinic hours.

In-patients discharges were also co-ordinated to a more efficient extent. Instead of individual ward sisters making their own requests, requirements are collated at a fixed time daily, usually 9.30 a.m., and passed to Headquarters, who then send the required transport at 10.30 a.m., daily. At one hospital this has reduced journeys considerably and it also has the effect of removing the need for relatives, etc., receiving a discharged patient at the hospital.

Increased mileages are shown in other types of cases mainly due to the wider scope of the Health Scheme whereby all hospitals in a Region are utilised instead of just the local ones.

The figure of 632 occasions when an ambulance responded but was not required requires explanation. Whereas last year a fair proportion of occasions were due to appointment errors the same cannot be said for 1950. In the main it is accounted for by persons too ill to travel (the recent influenza epidemic points an example) or out-patients either making their own way or refusing to travel when the ambulance calls because it is too early. For those who make their own way the hospital is informed and usually it results in withdrawal from the list. The last case presents a problem, for if we are to effect economy we must co-ordinate journeys and someone must be prepared to be picked up a little earlier than may appear necessary. Often we find an explanation of the difficulty meets the case but there are a few "die hards" who refuse to listen. Perhaps not surprisingly, abuse cases are usually to be found amongst these latter, and removal from the list is effected.

One hears and reads so much of the enormous amount of abuse of Public Ambulance Services that it is again a pleasure to report that in my experience the percentage in Birkenhead is low. This may be attributed to the excellent co-operation received from hospitals, clinics, practitioners and other responsible authorities. Many get-together meetings have been held with the hospitals, etc. in the group and the problems of each side freely discussed. Similarly, practitioners and others have all shown extreme willingness to help with our problems, and last, but not least, the general public seem to want to help. In this connection, it has no doubt helped matters by the opportunities which have been afforded me to address Women's Guilds and Clubs.

There is no doubt the service is expensive, but it is doing good work and perhaps if we were not living in a state of perpetual economic crises where every penny needs to be counted, one would not hear so much of the word "abuse."

Some controversy has existed during the year in Service and Medical circles as to the degree of maternity training required by an ambulance attendant. As a County Borough official where distances are relatively short, I incline to the view that only first aid training is required and, in the patients' interests, more advanced treatment should be left to professional hands. A fair number of births have occurred in ambulances during the year and our policy appears to be proved the correct one; it has now been backed by the Ministry of Health.

Finally, a word upon the still vexed questions—should a combined Fire/Ambulance Service operate, and is a fireman likely to be a good or poor ambulance man. For the former, I can only say the answer depends upon the size of the Authority, and for a Borough like Birkenhead, I think a combined Service is more efficient and economical. As to the second question, the letters and messages of appreciation on file provide the answer. The fireman who has to be rough and tough at a fierce fire has proved himself capable of being equally gentle and kind with a patient, and further, his very calling as a fireman makes him dependable and quick-thinking when action is required. There is possibly an added asset—opportunities for promotion in a purely civilian Ambulance service are low and incentive to study for improvement is lacking. This is not so in a Fire Brigade where almost every man is ambitious and is constantly furthering his knowledge.

Calls During the Year

During the year ending 31st December, 1950, your Brigade responded to 33,267 calls, comprised as follows:—

	Calls	Patients Carried	Mileage
Home Accidents	455	462	1,561
Works Accidents	766	794	2,506
Street Accidents	843	864	3,720
Maternity	770	770	3,667
Emergency Illness	1,467	1,467	7,094
General Illness	5,834	5,834	39,740
Out-patients	19,359	19,460	54,422
Hospital Transfers	1,108	2,269	8,643
Mental	230	231	5,413
Tuberculosis	83	88	3,538
Infectious Diseases	490	491	2,797
Transport of Gas and Air			
Machines	155	—	459
Transport of Midwives	398	—	1,516
Delivery of Infected Bedding ...	272	—	1,003

Ambulance service

Special Services	397	—	1,774
False Alarms	8	—	22
Ambulance not required.....	632	—	1,821
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33,267	32,730	139,696
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Period Calls Received.	No. of Calls
Midnight—9 a.m.	3,274
9 a.m.—6 p.m.	26,934
6 p.m.—Midnight	3,059
	<hr/>
	33,267
	<hr/>

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Co-Ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees

The following work was done by the officers of this Authority on behalf of the Hospital Authorities:—

- (i) Supervision of patients on licence or leave from Mental Deficiency Institutions; the furnishing of Progress and Periodic Reports and Reports on Home Circumstances.
- (ii) Visiting homes to obtain information for Hospital Index Records (where this could not be obtained by the Hospital Staff on admission).
- (iii) The conveyance of Mental Defectives between institutions, where hospital staffs were unable to provide escort.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Mental Health Department during 1950:—

(a) Prevention, Care and After-Care.

(National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 28).

Under this heading is included work done for mental defectives on licence or leave from institutions, defectives on friendly home supervision, cases of undetermined mental illness in which no statutory action was necessary, and the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals or from H.M. Forces. Where patients objected, no after-care visits were made.

Statistics of defectives on statutory home supervision are given under (c) Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

(i) **Defectives on Leave or Licence.** 70 Reports were sent to various hospitals and officials regarding patients on licence or leave in Birkenhead, and reports on home circumstances.

(ii) **Friendly Home Supervision of Patients**, including defectives discharged from their Orders.

	Males	Females	Total
No. of Patients	5	9	14

(iii) "No Action" Cases

These are cases where, after investigation, no action was deemed necessary under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, and who were then referred as follows:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
No further action	16	33	49
To Psychiatrist	10	14	24
To Welfare Officer	6	9	15
To Own Doctor	6	3	9
Waiting List for Hospital—(Senile)	0	6	6
Admitted to Hospital (Chronic Sick)	1	2	3
Admitted to Nursing Homes	0	2	2
Admitted to Convent	0	1	1
To Police	2	0	2
To Birkenhead and Wirral Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	0	1	1
To Chest Clinic	0	1	1
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 113

(iv) **After-Care Cases** discharged from Mental Hospitals or from Psychiatrists' Clinics:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Referred for After-Care	20	45	65
Refused After-Care	9	8	17

(b) **Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts**(i) **Admissions to Hospitals under Lunacy Act, 1890, (as amended).**

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total for 1949.
Sec. 20 (3 day Detention Order)	61	31	92	(88)
Sec. 21 (14-Day Justice's Order)	17	41	58	(50)
Sec. 16 (Certification)	52	66	118	(131)
Sec. 5 (Private Patients)	0	0	0	(2)
Sec. 64-67 (Transfers)	6	4	10	(2)
Sec. 11 (Urgency Order)	0	1	1	(0)
Circular 999 Cases	16	8	24	(—)

(ii) **Admissions under Mental Treatment Acts, 1930, (as amended).**

	Males.	Females.	Total.	for 1949. Total
Sec. 1 (1) (Voluntary Patients)	25	46	71	(39)
Sec. 1 (2) (Voluntary Patients under 16 years)	0	1	1	(0)
Sec. 5 (Temporary Patients)	0	2	2	(2)

The Duly Authorised Officers are available to give assistance in dealing with the admission of patients to Private Mental Homes and the Private Wards of Mental Hospitals. The continued increase in the number of patients dealt with under the Mental Treatment Acts indicates a change of outlook regarding mental illness, and shows the confidence felt by doctors and patients that mental illness often responds to modern methods of treatment.

(iii) **Board of Control Circular 999**

Under this Circular the Duly Authorised Officers undertook certification and removal of patients from other Authorities' areas detained in Birkenhead Mental Hospital under extended Orders (Sec. 21A). The Birkenhead Local Health Authority was reimbursed by the Authority originating action for certification fees and incidental expenses involved, under a scheme devised in Birkenhead and adopted by other Authorities.

Under this Circular, the following cases were dealt with during 1950:—

Males	Females	Total
16	8	24

(iv) **Hospital Admissions**

Despite the acute shortage of hospital beds, the Authorised Officers were able to obtain accommodation in the following Mental Hospitals for patients admitted on initial action direct from their homes or sick wards.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
St. Catherine's Hospital Annexe (Birkenhead Mental Hospital)	75	55	130
Upton Mental Hospital, Chester	16	78	94
Rainhill Mental Hospital	0	1	1
Cheadle Royal Hospital	1	1	2
Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool	0	1	1
Denbigh Mental Hospital	0	1	1
St. Anne's Hospital, Nottingham	0	1	1
	92	138	230

The number of patients dealt with under the Acts during 1950 was 366, of whom 289 were new cases. In addition, 113 patients were found to require no statutory action and 65 were referred to the Department for After-Care.

(c) Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938

At the end of the year, the following was the position of Birkenhead mental defectives:—

No. on Mental Deficiency Register	351
No. in Institutions	157
Number on Licence from Institutions	10
No. under Guardianship	1
No. on Home Supervision	182
Action pending	1
	351

(i) **New cases** notified to the Local Health Authority arose as follows:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under Education Act, 1944, Section 57 (3)	2	4	6
Under Education Act, 1944, Section 57 (5)	7	1	8
Other Sources (Certifying Officers, etc.) ...	7	2	9
	16	7	23

(ii) Removals from Mental Deficiency Register

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths	3	1	4
Cancellations of Notification (e.g. Education Act, 1944-48, Sec. 8)	0	0	0
Found not to be certifiable on examination	0	0	0
Transfers out	0	0	0
	3	1	4
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Sec. 15—"Place of Safety"	1	1	2
Sec. 8--From Magistrates' Court	1	0	1
Sec. 9--Order of Secretary of State	2	0	2
Sec. 6--On Petition	2	0	2
Sec. 7--Variation of Guardianship Order ...	0	0	0
	6	1	7

(iv) Institutional Accommodation.

The Waiting List for Institutions was revised owing to the fact that vacancies were allotted by the Regional Hospital Board to cases of greatest urgency. Thus, at the end of the year, there were 23 cases considered by the Local Health Authority to be urgent, including 6 patients accommodated in "Place of Safety." It was also felt that institution was the best means of care for a further 51, whose cases could not be assessed as urgent.

Birkenhead cases in Institutions were located as follows:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cranage Hall Hospital	35	52	87
Royal Albert Hospital	8	—	8
Calderstones Hospital	7	—	7
Quakers' Home, Cotebrook	—	1	1
Priory Rest Home, Wavertree	—	1	1
Ian Tetley Memorial Home, Harrogate.....	1	—	1
Whitecross Homes, Warrington	4	2	6
Nantwich Institution	—	1	1
Durran Hill House, Carlisle	—	1	1
Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth	—	1	1
Brentry Colony, Bristol	1	—	1
Mary Dendy Homes, Alderley Edge	1	—	1
Ashton House, Birkenhead	—	2	2
St. Catherine's Hospital, Annexe, (Birkenhead Mental Hospital)	19	8	27
Rampton State Institution	5	1	6
Moss Side State Institution	1	1	2
Greaves Hall, near Southport	2	—	2
Underwood House, Plympton	—	1	1
	<hr/> 84	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 156

(For comparison at the end of the previous year, there were 156 Birkenhead cases in Institutions).

The question of institution accommodation for mental defectives was the subject of representations by the Corporation to the official bodies concerned. Considerable hardship is often experienced in families of defectives and these difficulties are increased when one of the parents or guardians is absent through illness or other causes. The provision of homes for short stay cases would be a boon under these circumstances.

(v) Guardianship

One Birkenhead case remained under the guardianship of his brother. No contribution under Section 30 is made in this case.

One case transferred in from Denbighshire continued to be the responsibility of that County Council. The necessary examination and documentation were carried out by my staff.

(vi) Home Supervision

As before, the Authorised Officers carried out Statutory and Voluntary Supervision of defectives in their homes. 721 visits were made, and 551 reports were obtained.

(vii) **Occupation Centre.**

By arrangement with Wallasey Corporation, Birkenhead cases are attending Wallasey Occupation Centre, as hitherto. Free transport is provided to and from the Centre. This Centre normally caters for children up to 16 years of age, but, in suitable cases, extension of age of attendance is possible.

Attendances throughout the year have averaged 22.3 daily. There are 33 defectives on the Register.

Dinners are provided and mid-morning milk. The charge for this, up to 5d. per day, is assessed on a scale based on the parents' income.

During 1950, at the request of Wallasey Corporation, the bus was diverted through Moreton to pick up some of the Wallasey defectives and suitable financial agreement was made.

A Christmas party at the end of the year was much appreciated by the children, and, in the Summer, an enjoyable outing to Southport was arranged by the Wallasey staff.

(viii) **Dental Treatment**

The arrangements made in 1949 continued to be of benefit. The Birkenhead Dental Association approved of emergencies being dealt with at the Dental Hospital, Pembroke Place, Liverpool or at St. Catherine's Hospital.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

This scheme is, for the time being, restricted to persons suffering from tuberculosis and, to a lesser extent, to those suffering from mental illness.

Tuberculosis

A Care and After-Care Committee, consisting of representatives of the Health Committee, the Corkhill Charity Trust, the Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, deals with the tuberculosis section of the scheme.

Under arrangements with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the services of Dr. E. Blackstock, Tuberculosis Officer, are available in dealing with cases coming under the scheme.

The Chest Clinic is situated in 42 Hamilton Square, and the Tuberculosis Almoner, Miss Dunn, has an office in the same building.

During the year, the Almoner held 2384 interviews with patients and relatives at the Clinic and had 810 interviews with patients in Sanatoria and Hospitals.

The Scheme is indebted to the Corkhill Charity Trust for much additional help during the year. The Trust purchased two garden shelters for loan to patients and paid for two bus outings. They have immensely improved the patients' waiting room by the addition of a small aquarium, bulbs and plants, and pictures for the walls. They also purchased a quantity of books for the patients' lending library.

Provision is made for extra nourishment to be granted to necessitous cases.

Beds, blankets, and nursing requisites are loaned to patients. Paper handkerchiefs are issued to respiratory cases and destructable sputum cups are issued to bed patients being nursed at home.

During the year, 173 cases were referred to the National Assistance Board for financial help.

121 patients living under unsatisfactory housing conditions were referred to the Housing Manager for consideration. 43 cases were granted the tenancy of Corporation houses.

Health Visiting

On receipt of notification that a person is affected with tuberculosis, the home of the person is visited by a Health Visitor who prepares a report on the home conditions, number of contacts, etc. which is forwarded to the Tuberculosis Officer for his information.

The Health Visitor also advises as to the methods which should be adopted to reduce the risk of infection, and maintains contact with the patient and the home as long as is considered desirable.

Occupational Therapy.

An Occupational Therapy Class, organised by the Tuberculosis Almoner, is held once a week at the Red Cross Headquarters, 68 Balls Road, and patients are supplied with materials for work at the Centre and for work which they wish to do at home.

Valuable assistance has again been rendered by members of the Red Cross Society in helping with the training of cases attending the Centre.

The Annual Sale of Work of handicrafts made at the Centre was held on the 2nd December, 1950, at the Chest Clinic, Hamilton Square.

Rehabilitation.

The Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour has at all times rendered every possible assistance in matters dealing with the rehabilitation of patients.

During the year, 46 patients were registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944—of these, 3 were placed in special training, 2 are being considered for special training, 3 took up sanatorium nursing, and 25 were found other employment.

Institution Cases—Rehabilitation.

(a) Wrenbury Hall Training Colony:—

Cases in Colony at end of 1949	12
Cases admitted during year 1950	13
Cases discharged during year 1950	19
Cases remaining in Colony at end of 1950	6

(b) Derwen Cripples' Training College:—

Cases admitted during 1950	1
(being paid for by Education Authority)	
Total cases undergoing training	2

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Arrangements are in hand for putting into operation the scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of child contacts.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The year produced a steady increase in the demand for the services of Domestic Helps and it is anticipated that the demand will steadily increase as the Scheme becomes more widely known.

The chronic sick and aged form a large percentage of those provided with domestic help, many of whom are living alone under conditions which are not at all satisfactory.

I should like to record my appreciation to those Domestic Helpers who, in addition to the duties they are paid to carry out, render assistance in their own time to those who have no relatives or friends to help them.

During the year, the extension of the Service necessitated the employment of a Domestic Help Organiser, who works in close co-operation with Hospital Almoners, Officers of the National Assistance Board, the Welfare Department and Voluntary Organisations in the Borough.

At the end of the year, five full-time and 36 part-time helpers were employed.

The following is a list of cases provided with Domestic Help:—

Cases on Register at end of 1949	37
New Cases:	
(a) Maternity	90
(b) Illness, etc.	73
(c) Chronic Sick	74
(d) Aged and Infirm	81
Total	355

No. of Hours worked by Domestic Helpers.

Aged and Infirm and Chronic Cases	29,588 hours
Maternity, Sickness, etc	10,717 hours
Total	40,305 hours

Visits.

1,386 visits were paid to households by the Domestic Help Organiser and her Assistant in investigating applications for domestic assistance.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

BY

F. G. FOSTER

M.A., M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

School Medical Officer

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Deputy Chairman:

Councillor W. E. POWER

Aldermen J. Miller, M. Poland, C. J. Yates.

Councillors Mrs. Crook, N. G. Eddas, M. E. Fitzgerald, J. Furness, J. Kennedy, C. S. McRonald, Mrs. Melville, J. W. Oates, A. E. Richmond.

Ex-Officio Members:

The Mayor (Alderman F. Garstang) and the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Alderman H. Platt).

Co-opted Members:

Miss E. S. Benson, V. Rev. Provost Hazlehurst, D.D., J. H. Jones, C. R. Lockyer, A. Mealor, A. D. Pappworth, J. Pyke, Rev. F. Taylor, Professor F. W. Wallbank, M.A., T. H. Ward.

Department of the Medical Officer of Health,
9 Hamilton Square,
Birkenhead.
February, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the School Health Services for 1950.

Despite the unseasonable weather during the year, the general health of the school children has been good.

The expected biennial increase in cases of Measles and Whooping Cough was very marked in the former disease this year. The number of cases notified—1753—was the highest yet recorded in the Borough.

In the latter fortnight of December, the Influenza epidemic struck the town, and, although its full magnitude cannot be estimated until 1951, it was already evident by the end of the year that it was one of the most severe experienced for many years.

The general nutrition of the children was good, although it was noticed that the standard of nutrition was higher in schools in the suburbs than in the schools in the centre of the town.

During the last quarter of the year, the North-Western Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was stationed in Birkenhead for the purpose of making a radiological survey of the inhabitants. Arrangements were made for the school 'leavers' to be X-rayed and the majority of this group availed themselves of the opportunity. If the results of the Survey are received before this report is issued they will be embodied in its contents.

An intensive campaign for Immunisation against Diphtheria was undertaken throughout the Schools and this will be continued during 1951. The response has been encouraging and I and my staff are indebted to the Director of Education and the various Headmasters and Headmistresses for their co-operation and help, without which the success of the campaign could not have been achieved.

A noticeable factor is the continued increase in the number of examinations of Backward and Maladjusted pupils. Requests for such examinations are being received in ever-increasing numbers from Medical Officers of Hospitals, School Teachers, Children's Officers and Probation Officers and the Committee may have to consider employing the Consultant Psychiatrist for extra sessions in order to keep the waiting list within reasonable bounds.

Consideration must also be given during 1951 to the establishment of a Child Guidance Clinic. The present arrangement of sending children requiring such treatment to Notre Dame Clinic in Liverpool has many disadvantages both for parents and pupils.

The opening of the new School in Bedford Drive has at last enabled the Speech Therapist to find permanent headquarters for her classes. Prior to her obtaining accommodation in this school she had to carry out treatment at five different centres in the Town to the great inconvenience to herself and her pupils.

Before concluding this report, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. P. Wilson Smith, L.D.S. (Glas.) Senior School Dental Officer, who was due to retire in October, but who has, at the request of the Education Committee, agreed to extend his service for a further period.

Mr. Smith, who has now completed 30 years service with the Borough, inaugurated the School Dental Service in Birkenhead in January 1921, and the Scheme he formulated then has proved its value throughout the years. Mr. Smith is recognised in his profession as an administrator of high ability and has been honoured during his career by being elected as Chairman to the North Western Division of the Public Dental Officers Group from 1934 to 1947 and as President of the Public Dental Group of the British Dental Association in 1936-37.

This report will not be published until after my retiral, and, as it would be redundant for me to acknowledge again the obligations mentioned in the concluding paragraphs of my Report for 1949, I have nothing further to add beyond commending my successor, Dr. J. W. Lobban, with the assurance that, under his direction, the standard of health of the school children of Birkenhead will be maintained at a high level.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F G. FOSTER,

School Medical Officer.

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN**

Primary Schools

County	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. of Children on the rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,205
Average attendance	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,721

Secondary Schools (Maintained)

County	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Children on the rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,346
Average Attendance	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,736

Secondary Schools (Non-maintained)

There are four Direct Grant Secondary Schools in the town as follows:—

The Birkenhead School, Beresford Road (Boys).

The Birkenhead High School for Girls, Devonshire Place
(G.P.D.S.T.)

The Convent F.C.J., Holt Hill.

St. Anselm's College, Manor Hill.

Nursery Classes

In connection with the Infants' Departments, Nursery Classes are held at:—

Cathcart Street Primary School.

Rock Ferry Primary School.

The Dell Primary School.

Bedford Drive Primary School.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Periodic Medical Inspections were made in schools, of the Age Groups specified in Para. 49(2) of the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulation, 1945, namely:—

- (a) every pupil admitted for the first time to a Maintained School, as soon as possible after the date of admission.
- (b) every pupil attending a Maintained Primary School during the last year of attendance at such a school.
- (c) every pupil attending a Maintained Secondary School during the last year of attendance at such a school.
- (d) Fourth Age Group inspections of children between eight and nine years of age on 31.3.50, were also made, and are included in the Statistical Table as Other Periodic Inspections.

In addition, arrangements were made for the Inspection of 163 pupils attending a Non-Maintained Secondary School.

In 1950, the number of Periodic Medical Inspections of pupils attending Maintained Schools was 7,408.

Special Inspections of pupils referred from various sources totalled 4,573 examinations, made up as follows:—

At Minor Ailments Clinics	...	...	...	2,214
Pre-Dental Heart Inspections	...	...	...	1,797
Children with Speech Defects	...	...	...	190
Specially referred during course of Routine				
Medical Inspections	...	...	...	52
Referred for Convalescence	...	...	...	95
At Municipal Skin Clinic	...	...	...	103
Employment out of School Hours	...	...	...	74
Boarded-out Children	...	...	...	28
Freedom from Infection	...	...	...	3
Inspection of Campers	...	...	...	17

Re-examinations were made of children found at Periodic and Special Inspections, to have defects. There were 4,939 such Re-examinations.

Statistical Tables, as required by the Ministry of Education, are given at the end of this Report.

CO-OPERATION WITH PARENTS

Parents attended at the examinations of 5,163 (69.69%) of the 7,408 pupils on Routine Inspections:—

Code Group	Parents Present
First Age Group	90.31%
Second Age Group	72.50%
Third Age Group	24.28%
Fourth Age Group	77.88%

NUTRITION

The standard of Nutrition continues at a very satisfactory level for an industrial area. Rest and good food are essential to the maintenance of good nutrition, and again it must be stressed that all too often, young children are seen playing in the streets at night when they should be in bed. It may be that bad housing conditions occasionally make it difficult to ensure adequate rest for the children, but parental discipline and commonsense must be exercised to remedy this health destroying habit. There is little doubt that the School Meals have gone a long way to minimise the deficiencies in certain homes, and it is hoped that the time is near when School Dinners will be available to all who attend School.

Height and weight.—Below are set out the average heights and weights (measured without footwear) of children who were examined during the course of routine inspections.

Age	Height					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	Ft.	Ins.	No.	Ft.	Ins.
3 years	30	3	2·13	42	3	2·14
4 years	384	3	4·47	332	3	4·24
5 years	571	3	5·68	489	3	6·24
6 years	77	3	8·35	65	3	7·89
7 years	15	3	11·67	9	3	10·78
8 years	584	4	1·64	484	4	1·25
9 years	165	4	2·48	168	4	2·30
10 years	429	4	5·98	402	4	5·55
11 years	516	4	6·73	497	4	6·33
12 years	15	4	8·73	8	4	7·00
13 years	18	4	9·11	2	4	9·00
14 years	400	5	2·39	513	5	1·30
15 years	246	5	3·18	192	5	1·75
16 years	94	5	6·64	2	5	0·00
17 years	7	5	9·28			

Age	Weight					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	St.	Lbs.	No.	St.	Lbs.
3 years	30	2	8·87	42	2	7·62
4 years	383	2	12·31	331	2	10·94
5 years	571	3	1·64	489	2	13·99
6 years	78	3	4·90	65	3	3·83
7 years	14	3	10·28	10	3	8·20
8 years	580	4	1·26	484	4	0·04
9 years	166	4	4·47	168	4	2·06
10 years	419	5	1·68	400	4	13·51
11 years	514	5	4·50	497	5	2·82
12 years	15	5	8·47	8	5	6·25
13 years	18	6	1·11	2	6	8·00
14 years	408	7	9·32	516	7	10·91
15 years	248	7	12·60	192	7	10·06
16 years	94	9	1·83	2	7	10·00
17 years	7	9	11·57			

General Condition Tables are given in the Ministry of Education Returns (Table IIB) at the end of this Report.

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

The total number of School Meals provided during 1950 was 1,534,642, an increase of 95,354 on 1949. Of this number 1,277,197 were supplied on payment and 257,445 were provided free. The figures include meals to teaching staffs supplied at the appropriate rate.

Every child attending Primary and Secondary Maintained Schools receives one-third of a pint of milk free of charge daily. During the year, 3,472,189 one-third pint bottles were given.

CLEANLINESS AND CLOTHING

The general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory, having regard to the congested conditions of the area. Health Visitors made periodic inspections during school terms and 65,958 examinations were carried out. 1,488 pupils were found to be infested with vermin. Under Section 54 of the Education Acts, 1944-48, 11 Cleansing Notices were issued and 4 Cleansing Orders were made.

The Standards of Clothing and Footwear are generally satisfactory.

VACCINATION

In the Routine Inspections, of 7,408 children examined, 2,649 (35.76%) had no vaccination marks and 4,759 (64.24%) showed marks.

PAST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Before Periodic Inspections, a postal enquiry is made to the parents, of the past Infectious Disease which the child has had.

Disease	Entrants		Intermediate Primary Grp.		Primary Leavers		School Leavers	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Measles	1552	69.28	1238	76.04	158	95.02	1256	89.52
Whooping Cough ...	982	43.80	868	53.30	101	60.94	877	62.50
Scarlet Fever... ..	114	5.09	220	13.51	31	18.68	236	16.82
Diphtheria	23	1.03	53	3.26	14	8.43	103	7.34
Chicken Pox	573	25.58	894	54.91	91	54.81	858	61.15
Mumps	316	14.01	560	35.01	82	48.71	698	49.75
No Infectious Disease	325	14.50	63	3.87	7	4.22	33	2.34

(Note: A child may have had more than one disease)

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

During the year 8,354 attendances were made, and 1,650 defects were treated, compared with 11,228 attendances and 1,940 defects treated in 1949.

The attendances show a decrease of 25.60% on the preceding year. Compared with the attendances in 1948 the figure for 1950 shows a decrease of 37.51%.

SKIN CLINIC

The treatment of Scabies and Verminous Conditions remains with the Local Education Authority. 83 new cases were discovered necessitating 275 attendances at the Clinic. All contacts were followed up.

Disease or defect.	Number of cases treated at the Municipal Skin Clinic during the year.
Scabies :	
(a) uncomplicated	12
(b) complicated	5
Contacts found to be free from infestation.....	2
Secondary dermatitis after scabies	1
Disease of scalp due to infestation with lice and nits	53
Other skin diseases.....	12
Total.....	85

An average of 3 treatments only were required to effect the cure of uncomplicated Scabies.

DEFECTIVE VISION

During the year, Dr. A. M. Williams (Assistant School Medical Officer) continued, by arrangement with the Local Executive Council, to carry out refractions and sight testing. Dr. Williams is an approved Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner. Dr. Williams reports:—

“ There was a reduction in the total number of children attending the Eye Clinic, but an increase in the number attending for re-examination. Approximately 75% of cases notified to come to the Clinic for examination attend against an average of 45% prior to the National Health Service Act coming into operation. Parents are showing a keen interest in their children's eyesight and the majority of children attending the Clinic for the first time are accompanied by a parent. There has been an improvement in the time taken to supply spectacles.

There are still a large number of children who develop minor degrees of myopia between 10 and 11 years of age; most of these children are keen on reading and are also undergoing the strain of studying for their entrance examination. The children are advised to read good print and to read in a good light. They are also advised to attend the Eye Clinic for re-examination, as myopia often increases with the growth of the child, becoming stationary at 18 years of age.

Many children with high degrees of myopia attend the Clinic requiring special care of their eyesight. It is interesting to find many parents with myopia lenses accompanying their children to the Clinic.

The Clinic is planning to send for children whose eyes were examined at the Clinic and for whom glasses were prescribed but who have not attended for re-examination. This plan was started last year with the “ leavers ” and it is hoped to continue with the various age groups.

When thought desirable, children attending the Clinic are referred to the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at St. Catherine's Hospital for strabismus operations, high myopia, occasional congenital cataract, eye injuries and any condition when one does not obtain good vision with the error of refraction corrected.

There is a heavy demand on the services of the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and children have to wait some time for an appointment for examination. When immediate attention is found necessary, the Hospital Eye Clinic is given special notice.

A number of children attending the clinic do not appear to see well in School. When examined they are found to have no refractive error. Sometimes the condition is psychological—the child desiring to draw attention to itself in this manner. Some children appear unable to make out and read the letters on the Sight Testing Chart when examined at School, but read the letters on the chart when examined at the Clinic. These children should all have refractions done as one can only diagnose their true condition by dark room examinations."

Particulars of School Children refracted at the Eye Clinic in 1950:—

	New Cases	Re- Examinations	Total
Cases examined	528	852	1380
Glasses prescribed for ...	255	332	587
Authorisation for repair or replacement of glasses	7	318	325

Squint

New cases noted during the year:—

Convergent—Right Eye 24, Left Eye 19, Alternating 2.

At St. Catherine's Hospital, Mr. Charters (Ophthalmic Surgeon) dealt with as out-patients 336 children suffering from Eye Diseases, defective vision and strabismus.

28 children are noted to have received operative treatment for Squint at local hospitals.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

Pupils found at Routine, Special and Re-Inspections to be suffering from pathological conditions continue to be referred to the Specialist Clinics of the Children's Hospital and St. Catherine's Hospital.

During the year 272 appointments were made by St. Catherine's and the Children's Hospitals. Of this number 118 (43.38%) failed to keep their appointments.

The following table gives a full analysis of the cases dealt with by the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists:—

	Listed for operative treatment for Adenoids and Chronic Tonsillitis	Received non- operative treatment for E.N.T. conditions	To return for re- examina- tion	No apparent defect on examina- tion	Failed to keep appoint- ment
St. Catherine's Hospital ... (150 cases)	150	19	20	21	46
Children's Hospital ... (122 cases)	21	20	—	9	72
Totals ...	171	39	20	30	118

From in-patient returns submitted by Birkenhead Hospitals, the following operations are reported to have been performed during 1950.

	(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	(b) for other nose and throat conditions	(c) Mastoidec- tomy
St. Catherine's Hospitals ...	167	1	6
Children's Hospital ...	145	2	3
General Hospital ...	41	11	5
Totals ...	353	14	14

ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

Treatment of Orthopædic defects is still being carried out at the premises of the Birkenhead Invalid Children's Association Clinic by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

808 individual children of school age attended the Clinic during the year for treatment of Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

An analysis of the cases of school age and under school age treated during 1950 is given:—

Disease Categories	New Cases				Re-Exams.				Discharged				
	Under 5		Over 5		Under 5		Over 5		Cured	Relieved	Left district	Refused treatment	Died
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Congenital Deformities:													
Trunk .....	...	...	2	3	2	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...
Upper Limb	1	...	...	3	2	1	1	4	2	3	...	...	...
Lower Limb	3	...	2	6	4	7	14	13	3	3	...	...	...
Acquired Deformities:													
Flat Foot	45	53	85	101	47	53	174	138	104	2	4	...	...
Hallux Valgus	1	...	3	5	...	...	4	5	9	...	...	...	...
Postural Kyphosis & Scoliosis. ....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...
Knock Knee	39	35	18	21	60	44	65	70	69	...	...	...	...
Bow Leg.....	12	5	...	...	2	9	1	2	17	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions	5	11	16	9	12	4	17	10	27	...	...	...	...
Affections of Skeleton:													
Rickets .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Nervous System:													
Spastic Paralysis .....	...	...	...	1	2	6	6	15	1	...	...	...	...
Infantile „	1	...	...	1	4	1	5	5	...	...	...	...	...
Peripheral Nerve Lesions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions	2	3	...	1	3	4	2	4	3	2	...	...	...
Affections of Bones:													
Osteomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Affections of Joints:													
Tuberculous .....	...	...	2	1	...	1	6	9	...	...	...	...	...
Non-T.B. ....	...	...	3	2	...	2	4	4	1	...	...	...	...
Affections of Spine:													
Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	4	2	...	...	...	...
Non-T.B. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Epiphysis .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	7	5	4	...	...	...	...
Affections of Soft Tissues	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	4	2	...	...	...	...
Complications of Trauma .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	110	107	133	161	138	132	315	312	246	10	4	—	—

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES

These were provided by the Invalid Children's Association on the advice of the Orthopædic Surgeon. During the year there were 2 part-time and 1 full-time physiotherapists on the Association's Staff.

The number of attendances was 9,162 (compared to 7,525 in 1949) by non-tubercular clinic cases.

In addition 98 attendances were made by Non-Clinic Cases (e.g., those sent by Orthopædic Surgeons of Local Hospitals) as compared with 42 for last year.

In the Schools, a system of preventive and remedial exercises, as approved by the Ministry of Education, is in operation under the control of the Physical Training Organiser. In consultation with the Orthopædic Surgeon, a scheme of active exercises is given to the pupils by the teachers, with a view to checking the number of cases of Flat Feet and Postural Defects—two of the most common conditions. Other defects are treated at the Orthopædic Clinic. Treatment begins in the Nursery Classes and continues throughout 23 of the primary schools. Excellent results, as shown by serial footprints of individual cases, have been recorded.

CONVALESCENCE AND AFTER-CARE TREATMENT

During 1950 my Medical Staff examined for approval 93 children of school age referred for convalescent treatment from the following sources:—

General Practitioners	...	...	...	...	32
Assistant School Medical Officers	...	...	...	...	45
Local Hospitals	...	...	...	...	15
Physician to Chest Clinic	...	...	...	...	1

Arrangements for convalescence were made by the Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association on behalf of the Local Education Authority in respect of 88 children. In addition, convalescence was provided for 17 children of school age under the Penny in the Pound Scheme, and 3 cases were dealt with by the Association from their own resources.

ULTRA VIOLET RAY TREATMENT

At the premises of the Invalid Children's Association, a total of 46 children of school age made 750 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Debility	47	4	26

At the North Health Clinic a total of 29 children of school age made 272 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Bronchitis	3	1	1
Bronchial Catarrh	4	—	2
Catarrh	5	—	1
Cervical Adenitis	1	—	1
Debility	6	—	1
Post Whooping Cough	5	—	3
Enlarged Tonsils	1	—	—
Rickets	1	—	—
Recurrent Styes	—	1	—
Post Pneumonia	1	—	—
	27	2	9
	—	—	—

At the South Health Clinic a total of 19 children of school age made 171 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Debility	1	—	1
Malnutrition	1	—	1
Anaemia	4	2	3
	6	2	5
	—	—	—

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

During the year, 20 Physically Handicapped Pupils were newly ascertained and registered in the following categories:—

Category (a)

Blind 1 pupil

Category (b)

Partially sighted 1 pupil

Category (d)

Partially deaf 2 pupils

Category (e)

Delicate 4 pupils

Category (h)

Epileptic 2 pupils

Category (j)

Physically Handicapped :

Heart Disease	4 pupils
Bronchiectasis	1 pupil
Spasticity	3 pupils
Congenital deformity of neck	1 pupil
Congenital talipes	1 pupil

In addition 31 children registered in previous years were re-examined by the School Medical Staff, and 4 children from the Partially Sighted Class received Special School Leaving examinations from Dr. A. M. Williams at the Authority's Eye Clinic.

Details of the School Health Service Clinics and Staff are returned to the Ministry on Form 20M, while Form 21M, which is reproduced, gives the numbers for whom Boarding Homes and Special Boarding Schools are required.

Ministry of Education—Form 21M

Handicapped pupils requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Boarding Homes.

	(1) Blind (2) Partially sighted		(3) Deaf (4) Partially deaf		(5) Delicate (6) Physically Handicapped		(7) Educationally subnormal (8) Maladjusted		(9) Epileptic	Total 1-9
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
In calendar year										
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Special Schools or Homes ...	—	1	1	—	—	1	22	—	1	26
B. Handicapped Pupils newly ascertained as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes ...	1	1	—	2	4	10	19	3	2	42
On or about December 1st :—										
C. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area :—										
(i) Attending Special Schools as Day Pupils ...	—	12	4	—	—	—	121	—	—	137
Boarding Pupils ...	8	—	10	5	—	1	5	—	3	32
(ii) Boarded in Homes ...										
(iii) attending assisted schools (under approved arrangements) ...							1			1
Total (C) ...	8	12	14	5	—	1	127	—	3	170
D. Number of Handicapped pupils being educated under arrangements made under section 56 of the Education Act, 1944—										
(a) in hospitals										
(b) elsewhere						2				
E. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area requiring places in special schools (including any such unplaced children who are temporarily receiving home tuition) ...	2	1	—	2	7	27	1	5	1	45

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils in the financial year ended 31st March, 1950: £ NIL.

Particulars of one handicapped pupil, resident in the Ian Tetley Memorial Home, Harrogate, an Independent School being assisted by the Local Education Authority under Section 9 (1) of the Education Act, 1944, were submitted to the Ministry of Education on Form 23M.

Appended in detail is the distribution of School Children accommodated at 31st December, under the various handicapping categories:—

Category (a)—Blind

Royal Normal College, Shrewsbury	1 pupil
Henshaw's Institution for the Blind, Manchester ...	2 pupils
Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind	1 pupil
St. Vincent's R.C. School, Liverpool	2 pupils
Liverpool School for the Blind	2 pupils
Awaiting vacancies Boarding Special School	2 pupils

Category (b)—Partially Sighted

Sight Saving Class, Birkenhead	12 pupils
St. George's Approved School, Freshfield	1 pupil
Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Awaiting vacancy at Day Special School	1 pupil

Category (c)—Deaf

Liverpool School for the Deaf	10 pupils
Blenheim School, Farnley, Leeds	2 pupils
St. John's R.C. Institution for the Deaf, Boston Spa	1 pupil

Category (d)—Partially Deaf

Liverpool School for the Partially Deaf, Southport	5 pupils
Non-Maintained Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Primary Schools	1 pupil

Category (e)—Delicate

Primary Schools	3 pupils
Secondary Schools	5 pupils

Category (f)—Diabetic

Nil

Category (g)—Educationally Subnormal

Cloughton Road Day Special School, Birkenhead...	122 pupils
St. Joseph's R.C. School, Dunmow, Essex	2 pupils
Besford Court R.C. School, Worcester	2 pupils
Approved Schools	2 pupils
Primary Schools	21 pupils
Secondary Schools	24 pupils
Private Schools	5 pupils
Pontville R.C. School, Ormskirk	1 pupil

Category (h)—Epileptic

Maghull Home, Maghull	3 pupils
Awaiting vacancy Boarding Special School	1 pupil

Category (i)—Maladjusted...

Approved Schools	10 pupils
Primary Schools	50 pupils
Secondary Schools	29 pupils
Non-Maintained Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Private Schools	2 pupils

Category (j)—Physically Handicapped

Hospital Special Schools	2 pupils
Non-Maintained Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Private Schools	3 pupils
Primary Schools	10 pupils
Secondary Schools	18 pupils
Not attending School	9 pupils
Receiving Home Tuition	2 pupils
Awaiting vacancy Convalescent Home	1 pupil
The Margaret Barclay Residential School for Crippled Children, Mobberley, Cheshire	1 pupil

HOSPITAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS

In-patient returns, including diagnoses of cases were submitted throughout the year in respect of Birkenhead children between the ages of two and sixteen receiving Special Educational Treatment in the following Hospitals:—

Birkenhead Orthopædic Hospital, Thingwall.

Royal Liverpool Children's Hospitals, Heswall and Thingwall.

Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry.

Leasowe Children's Hospital.

SPEECH THERAPY

Mrs. Mary Peel, Speech Therapist, reports:—

“ There has been no permanent centre for the Speech Therapy Clinic again during the year, and, therefore, no Group work has been possible. However, it seems likely that a centre has been found for 1951, so that Group treatment will once more be available. 10 Sessions were held per week:—

6 Sessions at Cathcart Street School;

2 Sessions at the South Health Clinic, Albany Road;

2 Sessions at the North Health Clinic, Park Road West.

The Sessions previously held at Claughton Road Special School have been suspended for two reasons:—

(a) Lack of suitable accommodation;

(b) The large waiting list from the other schools.

Treatments have consisted of one half-hourly appointment per patient, per week. Exception being made in the case of one girl referred by Dr. John Hay and now transferred to the Children's Hospital for Therapy. Cases dealt with have consisted of Speech defects, i.e., Dyslalic, Sigmatic, Rhinolalic, retarded speech and in three cases stammerers have been treated individually.

The usual medical inspections were held in July, 1950, when names were submitted by the schools. It is felt that, in a number of cases, the schools are not cognizant with the nature of speech defects and that certain children are not being brought to the attention of the Medical Authority. In several instances children referred during the school medical inspection have not been included on the school list. A large number of children merely needing speech training have been submitted for treatment who could be satisfactorily dealt with by speech training methods and thereby shorten the waiting period of children requiring urgent therapy.

Parents have generally co-operated well with the Speech Therapist, but, unfortunately, many of the worse defects come from homes where co-operation is poor and there is not much prospect of a cure as parents cannot be bothered to bring the children weekly to the clinic. The Friday afternoon session has proved unsuccessful this year, as the parents spend this period in shopping, this difficulty could be overcome by utilizing Friday afternoon for school visiting instead of the two weeks now given to it at the end of term. This might in the end be more beneficial.

More children in the 5—11 age group have been treated this year in preference to the older age group. The results have been more satisfactory, as parents have attended with the children and so have been able to continue the treatment given at home."

Cases treated.

	Dyslalic	Sigmatic	Rhinolalic	Other cases
Girls	10	15	3	4
Boys	41	10	2	13

Cases Discharged

	Dyslalic	Sigmatic	Rhinolalic	Other cases
Girls	5	6	2	2
Boys	12	7	0	5

Cases Still Under Treatment

	Dyslalic	Sigmatic	Rhinolalic	Other cases
Girls	5	9	1	2
Boys	29	3	2	8

Number of cases treated 98.=Girls 32. Boys 66.

Number of cases discharged 39.=Girls 15. Boys 27.

Number of cases under treatment 59.=Girls 17. Boys 42.

MALADJUSTED CHILDREN

During the year 69 new cases were seen by the Psychiatrist, and 1 schoolchild was re-examined.

Of this number 49 were reported as Maladjusted, and registration in accordance with Ministry Regulations was recommended. Apart from advice given at the Psychiatric interview, treatment was not thought necessary in respect of 11 children, and 4 were found to have no disability of mind. It was considered that one boy, although not Maladjusted, would benefit from a course of treatment. 3 children examined were Educationally Subnormal and Maladjusted, and two boys were certified as Delicate and Maladjusted pupils.

In all cases seen, where a fairly recent Intelligence Quotient was not available, the children were initially ascertained by the Approved Medical Officers, and during the year the Intelligence Quotients of 44 boys and 16 girls were taken prior to the Psychiatrist's diagnostic interview.

The Director of Education referred	10 children for examination
The Children's Hospital	26 " " "
The Children's Officer	2 " " "
Probation Service	11 " " "
Head Teachers	1 child for examination
General Practitioners	1 " " "
Consultant Psychiatrist	1 " " "
Parents	5 children for examination
Assistant School Medical Officers	11 " " "

CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

During the year 50 children were referred to the Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic, Liverpool, by the School Health Service for treatment of problems diagnosed at the Consultant Psychiatrist's Diagnostic Interview.

EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN

Ascertainment examinations of children suspected to be educationally subnormal were held in schools and at clinics during the year. The recommendations of the Approved Medical Officers' are set out below:—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Total number examined	20	21	41
Number found to be educationally subnormal and:—			
Recommended to attend the Day Special School	11	8	19
Recommended to receive special coaching at the Ordinary School	5	12	17
Found to have no disability of mind	4	1	5

Intelligence assessments, not included in the above table were made in respect of 3 pupils recommended for admission to a Boarding Special School for Epileptic Children, 1 pupil leaving the Maghull Homes for Epileptics, and 1 pupil in attendance at the Class for Partially Sighted Children. Special Educational Treatment at a School for the Partially Deaf, was recommended in respect of 1 boy found to be Educationally Subnormal, and it was decided not to proceed with a report in connection with an Educationally Subnormal girl who had almost reached ordinary school leaving age.

During the year 34 children in attendance at Cloughton Road Day Special School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils were ascertained for leave of absence, as Special School leavers and at routine re-examinations. The results of these ascertainment are set out below:—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Total number examined	24	10	34
Special School Leavers—			
(a) Reported to the Local Health Authority (Section 57 (3) Education Act, 1944) ...	1	1	2
(b) Reported to the Local Health Authority (Section 57 (5) Education Act, 1944) ...	6	1	7
(c) Not requiring supervision on leaving the Special School	7	1	8
Leave of absence not recommended	1	—	1
Routine re-examination (Continue Special Educational Treatment)	9	7	16

In addition to the foregoing Cheshire County Council were advised that one pupil examined on leaving Cloughton Road, should be dealt with in accordance with Section 57 (5) of the Education Act, 1944, and at the request of the Headmaster of Hightown School, Liverpool, a Birkenhead pupil was ascertained on leaving the Boarding Special School; the examining Medical Officer recommending that he also should be the subject of a report under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The number of children notified by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944 was 15.

At the request of the Medical Superintendent, Capenhurst Remand Home for Boys, Wirral, two boys were certified by the School Medical Staff under Section 9 of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

As this may be the last report which I shall be giving relative to Dental work among the school children of Birkenhead, it might be an advantage to glance back over the years.

As you are aware, the Dental scheme for the treatment of Dental defects of school children of this borough was inaugurated on January 1st, 1921. In my report for that year I stated:—

“ It must be borne in mind that we are not building something to last for just a day, a week or a year, but something which, if properly administered and kept within its own sphere, should go on for time immemorial.”

It is, therefore, distressing to see the decline of a service which has been of such great value to the community.

This clinic reached its peak of efficiency during the years when it was fully staffed, which continued until the evacuation period in 1939. During these years the incidence of caries was kept under control by frequent inspections and necessary treatment following shortly afterwards.

Casuals (that is, children with toothache) were a minor factor and were easily and speedily dealt with.

Today, however, there is a different story, as owing to the depletion of the Dental staff, inspections at schools are considerably less frequent, with the result that permanent teeth, which would otherwise have been saved, have too often reached the stage when extractions become necessary. Another factor which has contributed considerably to this state of affairs was the raising of the school leaving age, which naturally meant an increased number of children for each Dental Officer to deal with.

All would have been well had a full staff of Dental Officers been available and the 1944 Education Act would also have been implemented. We are in a worse position as regards Dental Officers than we were during the years 1930-1939 and with a greater number of children to deal with. It is to be hoped, therefore, that efforts will be made to remedy this state of affairs as speedily as possible and appoint Dental Officers to bring the number to the establishment sanctioned by the Ministry of Education, that is, one Chief or Senior Dental Officer and four Assistant Dental Officers.

The surgeries are well equipped and it would be gratifying to all concerned to have them brought into full use.

It is interesting to note that since 1921, nearly three-hundred-thousand children have been inspected at the Schools and there have been well over two-hundred-thousand attendances at this Clinic.

I should like to thank the Medical Officer of Health and the Director of Education and the staffs of both departments for their co-operation throughout the year. I must also tender my appreciation to the Heads of Schools in all departments whose help has been of value in ensuring that the children have kept their appointments.

P. WILSON SMITH, Senior Dental Surgeon.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

TABLE I.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	2240
Second Age Group	1971
Third Age Group ...A.....	1569
Total	5780

Number of other periodic Inspections 1628

Grand Total 7408

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections 4573

Number of Re-Inspections 4939

Total 9512

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	5	340	345
Second Age Group	169	263	388
Third Age Group	129	150	260
Total (prescribed groups)	303	753	993
Other Periodic Inspections	109	238	321
Grand Total	412	991	1314

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of Defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin	65	113	237	1
5	Eyes—a. Vision ..	412	439	10	2
	b. Squint ...	41	112	3	—
	c. Other ...	57	61	244	1
6	Ears—a. Hearing ...	22	87	15	2
	b. Otitis Media	47	111	28	1
	c. Other ...	113	105	209	1
7	Nose or Throat ...	221	478	89	1
8	Speech	16	48	65	85
9	Cervical Glands ...	9	129	11	1
10	Heart & Circulation ...	42	213	22	8
11	Lungs—T.B. & N.T.B.	33	244	36	2
12	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ...	9	39	—	—
	b. Other	9	78	—	—
13	Orthopædic—				
	a. Posture ...	1	14	—	1
	b. Flat Foot	94	91	1	—
	c. Other Non-Pul T.B.	191	309	3	4
14	Nervous system—				
	a. Epilepsy...	—	5	—	1
	b. Other	11	70	20	—
15	Psychological—				
	a. Development	5	22	—	1
	b. Stability—	3	31	5	—
16	Other	550	146	679	2
		1951	2945	1657	114

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	2 49	707	31·56	1468	65·54	65	2·90
Second Age Group ...	1971	398	20·19	1414	71·74	159	8·07
Third Age Group	1569	335	21·35	1157	73·74	77	4·91
Other Periodic Inspections	1628	249	15·29	1267	77·83	112	6·88
Total	7408	1689	22·80	5306	71·62	413	5·58

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	65958
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infected	1488
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	11
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	4

TABLE IV.
TREATMENT TABLES
 GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN
 (excluding uncleanness, for which see Table III)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	3	—
(ii) Body	1	—
Scabies	20	—
Impetigo	27	—
Other skin diseases	177	21
Total	228	21

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	241	5
Errors of refraction (including squint) ...	776*	40
Total	1017	45
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed	587*	—
(b) Obtained	—	—
Total	587	—

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	14
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	353
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	25
Received other forms of treatment	332	34
Total	332	426

* Including cases dealt with under arrangements with the
 Supplementary Ophthalmic Service.

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	143	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments...	3	808

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	—	50

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	98	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	687	—
(b) Other (specified)		
1. Heart and Circulatory	21	46
2. Respiratory	31	83
3. Alimentary	—	24
4. Genito-Urinary	—	21
5. Nervous	21	28
6. Surgical... ..	—	143
7. Casualties	—	125
8. General Medical	—	219
Total	760	689

TABLE V.**DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY
THE AUTHORITY**

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—	
(a) Periodic age groups	7777
(b) Specials	3751
	<hr/>
Total (1)	11528
(2) Number found to require treatment	7860
(3) Number referred for treatment	699
(4) Number actually treated	6062
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	8613
(6) Half-days devoted to : Inspection	77
Treatment	1083
	<hr/>
Total (6)	1160
(7) Fillings : Permanent Teeth	3964
Temporary Teeth	57
	<hr/>
Total (7)	4021
(8) Number of teeth filled : Permanent Teeth	
Temporary Teeth	
	<hr/>
Total (8)	
(9) Extractions : Permanent Teeth	1792
Temporary Teeth	6245
	<hr/>
Total (9)	8037
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	3357
(11) Other operations : Permanent Teeth	1369
Temporary Teeth	736
	<hr/>
Total (11)	2105

